NEW

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

The truth behind the murder of America's 35th president

WHO REALLY KILLED JFK?
Analyze the conspiracy theories

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DETAILED ACCOUNTS • THE SUSPECTS • KEY EVIDENCE • THE VERDICT

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

Who killed Kennedy? It's a question that has been obsessed over for 55 years, and many would argue that we're no closer to getting an answer. Conspiracy theories have surrounded the assassination of President John F Kennedy since that fateful moment in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

The Kennedy Assassination book takes a close look at the highs and lows of Kennedy's presidential career and his family's history in order to understand his politics and origins - and why that might have made him a target. Find out what happened, minute-by-minute, from the moment JFK was shot, examine the various motives of the investigators' lead suspects and explore the many theories that attempt to explain why the President was assassinated.

FUTURE

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

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Introduction

There are collisions of time and space which form nexus points in history. A moment of decision or a brutal instant of death that will shatter the present and forever determine the path of events which follow. Dallas, 12:30 pm Central Standard Time on Friday, November 22, 1963 is one of those nexus points.

Whatever else you believe about the death of John F. Kennedy on that momentous day, it takes an act of overwhelming denial not to recognize its impact upon history. Not just a husband and father died. Not just an American President. A world-shaper died. As the Cuban Missile Crisis had proved, the decisions of JFK could and did decide the fate of the world.

I was nine years old when I first read about JFK's assassination in a *Bumper Book of Mysteries*. I was thrilled to discover what I thought was the biggest unsolved murder mystery ever. I already knew adults lied about important things, so it came as no shock to discover the covered-up evidence which suggested Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone.

It was exciting to discover about witnesses who thought the shots came from the grassy knoll. The fact that top marksmen could not replicate the three shots fired in the time Lee was meant to have taken. The astonishing information that the one bit of proof which could clear up whether it was a conspiracy or not—the President's brain—was missing.

I have been fascinated ever since reading that first book. I am not alone in my fascination. There have been effectively three governmental reports and more than 1,000 books on JFK's death published, all seeking to answer the question of who killed Kennedy? For a huge swathe of people, the question remains unanswered to their satisfaction.

Today, there are tens of thousands of websites which support a conspiracy and which ask over and over, three basic questions: Who had the motive? Who had the ability to actually pull off a successful assassination of the President? Who had the power to cover up such a conspiracy and ensure that no-one involved ever came to justice?

There are thousands of facts relating to the case which can be taken from the overwhelming number of official documents. Witness statements to FBI memos, forensic evidence and autopsy photos to painstaking analysis of films and photographs, you can easily assemble a collection of facts which backs up the theory that Oswald was not a lone gunman. However, from the same assortment of evidence, one can make a case suggesting the exact reverse.

Across the years I have upset a lot of conspiracy theorists by saying that 95 percent of all conspiracy theories are rubbish. I stand by that statement. Yet the 5 percent that are not nonsense are incredibly important. Having spent years researching the assassination of JFK, I firmly believe it may be the most provable and significant conspiracy in living memory.

However, being able to prove that there was a conspiracy rarely tells us anything in terms of actual fact as to who carried it out and why. This is certainly true in the murder of JFK. Even if a researcher could prove who actually killed Kennedy, it would be beyond arrogant for anyone to claim to have solved all of the strange elements that make up the wider conspiracy. There are simply too many mysteries spiralling back to that nexus point in Dealey Plaza.

Two decades ago, I spoke to the great American comedian and conspiracy theorist adherent Bill Hicks. We talked about Waco conspiracy theories, about NASA conspiracies, and we talked about JFK. To him, it was "the ground zero of conspiracy culture."

Beyond his anger at what he saw as a coup d'état, a stealing of the Government from its people by an elite, Bill was angry that people asked him why he got so worked up about the assassination. His voice rose beyond the mock anger of a comedy routine into a frighteningly forceful rant.

"I get so sick of the debunkers. Even more than that, I get so sick of those idiots asking me 'why it still matters?' They killed a man. They stole your Government. They stole the history we should have had. That's why it matters. Do you think we would have been here today, like this, with another four years of JFK? Eight years of Bobby after that? However many years on, that's why it matters. Those shots still echo."

Suddenly his voice fell back to a soft Texan crawl. "It matters. Those shots still echo."

Bill Hicks was definitely right on one thing. We all live in the temporal shadow of Dallas. Those shots still do echo and whilst they do, it is right to keep asking the fundamental question: Who killed Kennedy?

OPPOSITE, TOP A new hope. As a Democratic presidential candidate in 1960, Senator John F. Kennedy manifests the hopes and dreams of many Americans wanting to move from fear into an era of peace and progress.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM Into the crosshairs of history—President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy ride triumphantly through the crowded streets of Dallas, unaware they are traveling inextricably toward the shadow of death.

RIGHT On top of the world. JFK and Jackie enjoy a ride up Broadway during a ticker-tape parade. The myth of the Kennedys' Camelot has entered the collective unconscious, but dark forces haunted his presidency right from the start of the campaign trail.

President John F Kennedy

An iconic leader whose time in office was fraught with Cold War tension, 'JFK' remains a fascinating figure years after his untimely death.

Election night, Tuesday 8 November 1960. John 'Jack' Fitzgerald Kennedy waited for the voting results to come through on the television, his family sat around him in the living room of his brother's home in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. The endless television interviews, broadcast debates, rallies and traveling had taken their toll on his health; he hadn't had a proper meal or a good night's sleep in two weeks, and now he was beyond exhausted. The endless lectures from his father, Joe, about image and how it didn't matter who you were, only what people thought you were, had started to grate on him. Even his wife, Jackie, normally a source of comfort, was starting to unsettle him – when more favorable results came in and she said: "Oh bunny, you're president now!" he quickly turned his head away from the television screen and looked at her with his tired eyes, replying: "No… no, it's too early yet."

After winning the industrial cities of the Northeast, doubt filled the cramped living room when the loss of the Midwest and the Rocky Mountain states came through on the broadcast. His opponent, Richard Nixon, was more experienced, had more supporters in the all-important south, and had been endorsed by the current president, war hero Dwight Eisenhower. He was the safe vote, while Kennedy was the young, energetic pretender. Kennedy could only hope and pray that he had done enough.

After the "longest night in history," as Jackie would later describe it, the call came in the following morning. Nixon had admitted defeat and sent a congratulatory telegram to Kennedy. It was one of the closet elections in American history; the final tally being 34,227,096 to 34,107,646 of the popular vote, with 303 to 219 of the electoral vote going to the young pretender. The bare facts say it was hardly a ringing endorsement of Kennedy, but given the experience and relative popularity of Nixon, it was a spectacular victory. Against the advice of his closet supporters, Kennedy visited Nixon in Florida on 14 November. Kennedy wasn't impressed. He silently listened to Nixon dominate what was meant to be a friendly conversation about the last few months, and wondered how a man like this had nearly won the presidency. As he clambered back onto his helicopter after it was over, he turned to an aide and said: "It was just as well for all of us he didn't quite make it!"

Kennedy's presidency would go down in history as the dawn of a new era. He changed the face of politics by courting the media and creating his very own cult of celebrity, inspiring hope through his charm and freedom through his liberal policies. He gave the US a renewed self-confidence through his tough reputation abroad, and after his brutal assassination in Dallas, his legacy would live on.

At the start of Kennedy's long fight for Democratic nomination in 1957, a reporter said that Kennedy was Washington's 'hottest tourist attraction'. It was widely rumored he had an 'in' in Life magazine because of all the positive press he received there, and The American Mercury hailed him as the 'perfect politician'. Others were less convinced. "He'll never make it with that haircut," commented a prominent politician from New York.

It was true that Kennedy had his critics, but it was his deep connection with the media, getting his name in the public domain, and making sure that through his family connections it stayed out there in the best possible light, that made his political campaigns in the Fifties a success. The media was enamoured with his good looks, beautiful wife and young family. He represented the American dream, descended from Irish

John 'Jack' Fitzgerald Kennedy was the 35th president of the United States, serving for almost three years.

John and Jackie watching The America's Cup race.

immigrants and doing well through America's bounty to become a senator in the most powerful country in the world. He was the equivalent of an A-list celebrity on Capitol Hill, and he didn't mind the status, as he himself remarked: "This publicity does one good thing: it takes the vice out of vice-president." This wasn't to say that he was a shallow man who simply enjoyed the press for his own vanity; the press shots of him and Jackie with their children in Hyannis Port may have been doctored to fit the idyll of the perfect American family, but they do portray a genuine sentiment of love.

One of the most compelling stories that illustrates his character was not caught on camera, however. During his tenure in office, an aide was showing a group of disabled children around the White House when their wheelchairs prevented them from joining the rest of the tour group. Kennedy, late for a meeting, spotted them and came over to the children. The aide recalled: "He crossed the lawn to us, insisted on being introduced to each child and either picked up each limp, paralysed hand to shake it, or touched the child on the cheek. He had a different conversation with each child… the child's face radiated a joy totally impossible to describe." Kennedy's natural charm was rooted in compassion – something that the press could project, but not create.

The power over the press he possessed even allowed him to overcome the prejudices that some sections of American society held against him due to his Catholic upbringing; one writer remarked: "The stereotype of the Irish Catholic politician, the pugnacious, priest-ridden representative of an embittered, embattled minority, simply does not fit the poised, urbane, cosmopolitan young socialite from Harvard." This assertion was put to the test when he was nominated as the Democratic candidate for the presidency. Kennedy would need more than his easy smile, good looks and friends in the print media, as these alone would not be enough to go up against a seasoned politician like Nixon; he would need something that would allow him to reach millions and captivate them with his personality. He needed the power of television.

"THE MEDIA WAS ENAMOURED WITH HIS GOOD LOOKS, BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND FAMILY"

Kennedy's time would come during the first live television debates in September 1960, a contest that was watched by over 60 million people. Kennedy had taken a tour of the television studio beforehand, where his aides had worked out how the lighting, sound and shooting angles would benefit him; everything would have to be perfect if he were to shine on the box. Both candidates were offered the services of a CBS make-up artist – not that Kennedy needed it, as his skin looked tanned and healthy after campaigning in California. Nixon, on the other hand, looked pasty and sweaty, having only just recovered from a knee injury, but declined the make-up services. Ultimately, he got one of his aides to apply some make-up minutes before the broadcast to cover up his stubble, but coupled with his pale complexion, it only made him look ill and dirty. Kennedy received coaching from consultants to allow him to practise rebuking Nixon's comment, while maintaining eye contact with the audience straight down the lens.

Nixon was confident he could wing it, with one commentator noting afterwards that: "Nixon was addressing himself to Kennedy – but Kennedy was addressing himself to the audience that was the nation." Kennedy chose a suit that contrasted well with the background of the set, while Nixon's blended horribly into the backdrop. Kennedy was prepared and ready; Nixon looked nervous and tired. The result was a

ABOVE JFK: president, statesman and American hero.

"ONE OF MY SONS WILL BE PRESIDENT"

Joe Kennedy famously made the above claim about his sons. He was a man who expected a lot from his family – after all, they were Kennedys, and thus destined for greatness. Born in 1888, Joe grew up in a well-established Catholic family from Boston. He worked in Hollywood as a film producer and then entered politics as part of the Franklin Roosevelt administration. He later became ambassador to Britain, famously saying the country was "finished" in 1940. He was renowned for his political connections, using them to see his children established among the elite of American society after the war. It was also rumoured that he had unofficial connections with the Mafia, using them as he used everyone else: to get more power and influence. He was a domineering and harsh father, especially when his family didn't meet his high standards, and infamously had his daughter, Rosemary, lobotomised because of her violent personality. He also 'vetted' husbands for his daughters, ensuring they all married into families that would benefit the family. His affairs with other women were legendary, estranging him from his wife, Rose. He was a pessimist and isolationist, weighed down with old prejudices of the Protestant-dominated middle class. Jack was none of these things, outgrowing Joe's outdated beliefs.

popular victory for Kennedy, with one newspaper editor commenting: “The [television] medium is good to Kennedy and most unkind to Nixon. It makes Kennedy look forceful. It makes Nixon look guilty.” Emphasizing the differences in perception television offered, the majority of those who heard the radio debate thought Nixon had won, while those who watched on television were inclined in favor of Kennedy.

Kennedy was the first presidential candidate to properly utilize the power of the media and the idea of looking ‘right’ to connect with audiences through the medium of television, and it paid out in dividends. Subsequent presidents and their PR teams would never forget it. To this day, the presidential debates are given the highest priority, with PR consultants spending hours coaching and teaching respective nominees when to smile, when to laugh and how to look, even down to the shoes and ties they’re wearing. It was Kennedy’s stunning victory and his associations with the press before and after the 1960 election that subsequent presidential campaigns modeled themselves on. The image of the man who would lead the American people was now just as important as the man’s politics. But of course, looking right was only part of the story; Kennedy had to have the right policies to fully tap into the pool of voters.

Senator John F Kennedy and vice-president Richard Nixon during the second televised debate.

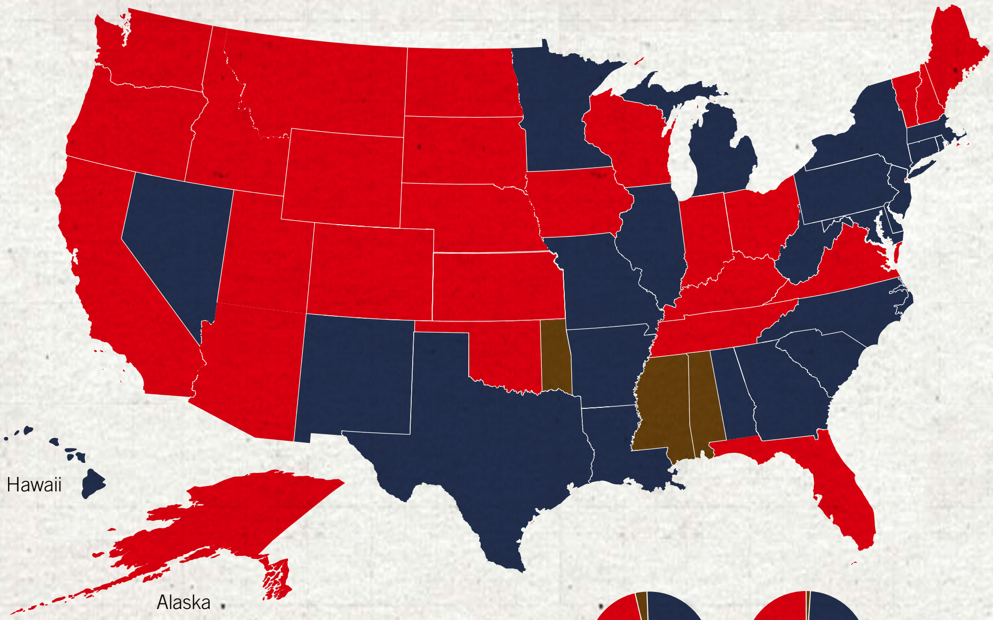
ABOVE Spectators line the streets of Ireland to catch a glimpse of Kennedy.

ABOVE Presidential nominees Kennedy and Nixon smiling for the cameras prior to their first televised debate.

HOW AMERICA WAS WON

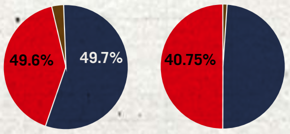
THE CLOSE ELECTION THAT JFK MANAGED TO WIN

The presidential election of 1960 was one of the closest in American history. Richard Nixon, Kennedy’s opponent, gained significant control over the American Midwest, a traditional Republican stronghold, and in California and Florida, which carried with it a large number of votes in the electoral college. Kennedy, however, seized control of Texas, a state with a large number of voters, through his running mate Lyndon B Johnson and the industrial heartland of America in the Northeast with the help of his father through his political connections with influential industrialists. One of the major battlegrounds was Chicago, Illinois, which held a large amount of supporters for Kennedy and Nixon. Controversies later emerged about Democratic mayor of Chicago, Richard Daley, rigging the Illinois vote for Kennedy after a conversation he had with Joe Kennedy and, apparently, the Chicago outfit. In the end, Illinois was won by a paper-thin margin of 8,858 votes.



🟥 **Republican (Nixon)**

🟦 **Democratic (Kennedy)**



Electoral vote total: 537

Popular vote total: 68,836,385

As influential columnist William V Shannon wrote: "Month after month, from the glossy pages of Life to the multicoloured cover of Redbook, Jack and Jackie Kennedy smile out at millions of readers; he with his tousled hair and winning smile, she with her dark eyes and beautiful face… But what has all this to do with statesmanship?" Ostensibly, the answer could be found in his hard-nosed Cold War rhetoric, but there was another issue burning through America in the Sixties that Kennedy could not afford to ignore: the fight for civil rights.

By 1960, the civil rights movement under Martin Luther King Jr was worrying the southern states, who were holding firm on segregation and humiliating the political community in America as a whole in the process. How on earth could a country that claimed to be the leader of the free world still instigate a policy that restricted, oppressed and otherwise degraded American citizens based on their skin color? It was a question that was becoming urgent, with the broadcast media reporting all the sit-ins and protests of black citizens in the deep south to an anxious American public; the very people Kennedy would have to get on his side if he were to take the presidency and keep hold of it.

As the election loomed in the autumn of 1960, Kennedy was still looking weak on the civil rights issue. He was certainly more liberal than his opponent, but he didn't have anything of substance to beat him with. By coincidence, King was arrested on 19 October—a month before the election—while taking part in a sit-in protest. Kennedy pounced on it as an opportunity. He phoned the shaken Mrs King, saying: "I want to express to you my concern about your husband. I understand that you are expecting a baby, and I just wanted you to know that I was thinking about you and Dr King." It galvanized black voters, with King's father saying: "He can be my president, Catholic or whatever he is. It took courage to call my daughter-in-law at a time like this. He has the moral courage to stand up for what he knows is right." King himself was unconvinced. Despite these words, he was still not pushing civil rights; he was playing the political game. It was just words—words enough to capture the presidency, but words nonetheless.

King would call Kennedy's bluff in August 1963 after Kennedy's inaction, marching on Washington with thousands of supporters. Kennedy begged him not to, fearing the marchers would turn violent. But march they did, black and white, the largest demonstration to ever come to the capital, with King at the front of the huge procession, proudly proclaiming: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal." Kennedy looked on open-mouthed; the rapture of the crowd hanging on King's every word was beyond impressive. He immediately invited King and his inner circle to the White House, offering refreshments and a promise

John F Kennedy in uniform, 1942.

John and Jackie on their wedding day in 1953.

ABOVE The Kennedy family relax at their home in Hyannis Port.

JFK with Martin Luther King and other delegates from the rally in Washington DC.

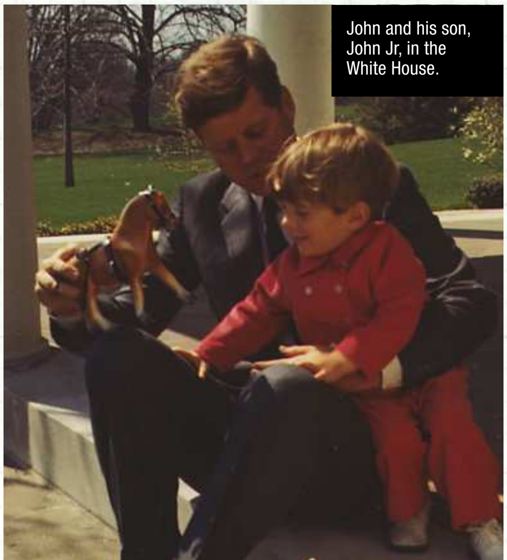
SEGREGATED RULES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LAW NOW
FREEDOM
DEMAND VOTING RIGHTS NOW!
FOR NOW

ABOVE Over 200,000 protestors marched along the Capitol mall in Washington on 28 August 1963.

ABOVE Deep in thought while in transit in the 1960 US presidential campaign.

to get things moving where he could on civil rights. It was probably a combination of Kennedy's own moral scruples and King's loud insistence that finally got civil rights on the right path, but inaction would still dog Kennedy's record on the agenda.

To say Kennedy was a mere political opportunist would be grossly unfair, however. He was a man of principles, and the treatment of black communities in the deep South sickened him. However, it is a myth that he was a radical activist of the civil rights movement; he was far too pragmatic for that. Actively supporting the civil rights movement more than he did would have destroyed his support in the South and make what Nixon would later call the 'silent majority' everywhere else uneasy. His presidency did not bring solid change, and his successor, Lyndon B Johnson, would do far more, but it was a rallying cry for a new beginning. By meeting King and publicly endorsing the ideal of civil rights for all, even if he did not actively support the campaign in practice, would give civil rights the national platform it needed, and Kennedy's own celebrity endorsement to bring civil rights to the top of the national agenda. As Arthur Schlesinger, a social commentator in the Sixties observed: "He had quietly created an atmosphere where change, when it came, would seem no longer an upheaval, but the inexorable unfolding of the promise of American life." Kennedy would not go eyeball-to-eyeball with civil rights, but he would with Communism. It was the realms of foreign affairs where he would make his stand, where there could be no comprise, and where the legend of Kennedy's confrontation with the Soviets would change the world forever.


John and his son, John Jr, in the White House.

> "COMMUNISM WAS NOT ONLY OBJECTIONABLE TO KENNEDY, BUT A MORAL EVIL"

Communism was not only objectionable as far as Kennedy was concerned, but a moral evil. It stood against everything he believed about human rights and human dignity. The Communist leadership were godless, their state control oppressed its own people, and their vast armies oppressed the people of the globe; it was to be despised. When he made his inaugural address he spoke of not daring to "tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed." This was the hard line of the Cold War warrior—create the biggest conventional and nuclear arsenal available to scare the Communists into never attacking the free world, and Kennedy believed in it completely. He would go on to talk about the need for reconciliation, but warned against negotiating "out of fear." He had followed the line of Theodore Roosevelt, the man who flexed American muscle at the turn of the century: tread softly on the international stage, but carry a big stick.

Rhetoric would turn to action when Kennedy gave the green light to the ill-fated Bay of Pigs operation, later to be known as the 'undeniable fiasco'. It was the first major military undertaking of his presidency, but the plan was ill-conceived and flawed from the beginning. Even Kennedy talked about plausible deniability of the whole affair by its end. The plan was for the CIA to land thousands of military-trained Cuban exiles onto the Cuban mainland and, by proxy, enact a coup. It relied on Castro not being in full control of Cuba, although unfortunately for Kennedy he was. As the invasion party landed, Cubans loyal to Castro bombed and machine-gunned the exiles into the sea, causing horrendous casualties. CIA chiefs pleaded with the president to allow the US air force to support the exiles, and initially Kennedy was inclined to agree, saying: "I'd rather be called an aggressor than a bum." Soviet interest in the affair would cool his aggression, and after tense diplomatic negotiation he shied away from further intervention in case the Russians were "apt to cause trouble." It was seen as a betrayal by the CIA and the Cuban exiles, who died in their hundreds on beaches. Neither the CIA nor the exiles would forget it.

The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion did not temper the attitudes of the president or his closest advisors; quite the contrary. The disaster convinced the Kennedy administration that the Communists needed to be taken seriously, as any more failures would risk goading their aggressive intentions. In the pressurized environment of the White House, straight-talking, hard-ball attitudes and the concoction of the 'red menace' frequently turned strategy into personal vendettas against the Communist leadership for the Kennedy family. Bobby Kennedy, Jack's younger brother and attorney-general for the American government, took the Bay of Pigs disaster as a personal slight. Castro had made the Kennedy family (and the US) look weak, and now he was going to "get him" by any means necessary, even commissioning a plan for an exploding seashell to be planted at Castro's favorite diving spot. Conversely, Jack didn't order a full invasion of Cuba, nor any provocative move in the region until it was absolutely necessary. In a famous comment made to an aide about the prospect of an American invasion of Cuba, he said: "The minute I land one marine we're in this thing up to our necks. I can't get the United States into a war and then lose it, no matter what it takes. I'm not going to risk a slaughter."

But Kennedy's caution was still infused with the influence of manful bravado inherited from his patriarchal family and the hawks in his own government, who were ever-ready to go toe-to-toe with the Communists. Ultimately, his refusal to 'blink' during the blockade of Cuba brought the world to the brink of nuclear war: for 13 days in 1962, he held the fate of billions in his hands in order to prove to the Russian Premier Khrushchev that when it came to American security there could be no compromise. As with the Bay of Pigs, it was also intensely personal. Kennedy felt deceived by the Soviets, who were talking to him about nuclear disarmament while installing medium-range missiles on the Cuban mainland. He called the Soviets "barefaced liars" and hurled expletives whenever he heard the names of Castro or Khrushchev during meetings in the run up to the blockade. They had made him look foolish and soft on the Communist problem, and the blockade represented the most he could do to confront them without tipping the world into a nuclear holocaust.

Rational thinking gave way to zero-sum thinking on the nature of the international Communist threat after the Cuban Missile Crisis, even if by this point impartial evidence suggested that Communism was not only far weaker, but also hopelessly divided among its global constituents. To Kennedy, however, ever-ready to fight the good fight, the threat was still real, and it was engulfing south-east Asia. He ordered more military advisors into Vietnam, as well as the creation of a new fighting force designed to combat Communist insurgents at grass-roots level: the Green Berets.

He publicly endorsed the Diem regime in South Vietnam led by Ngo Dinh Diem, despite private reservations about their effectiveness and cruelty. As the war intensified, Diem, a stanch Catholic, was drawing ever more criticism from his own people, the majority of whom were Buddhist. After brutal crackdowns on the Buddhist community at the beginning of 1963, monks set themselves on fire in the middle of a busy street in Saigon in protest. The response by one of Diem's closet advisors, his sister-in-law Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, was heartless. She told a CBS film crew that the Buddhists had just "barbecued" themselves, and next time she would provide the mustard. For Kennedy, a man who lived shoulder to shoulder with the media, this was a disaster. The regime that America was

BELOW Kennedy looks deep in thought as he awaits developments in the Cuban crisis that could have escalated to nuclear war.

Kennedy children visit the Oval Office.

President Kennedy presiding over a meeting with senior White House officials during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Kennedy signs the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in the White House Treaty Room on 7 October 1963.

ABOVE President and Mrs Kennedy with leaders of the Cuban Invasion Brigade3.

ABOVE TOP Kennedy meets with US Army officials during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962.

> “HIS IMAGE AS YOUNG, ENERGETIC AND TOUGH CHIMED WELL WITH THE MOOD OF THE US”

supposed to be protecting was in fact a dictatorship. Kennedy’s troops remained in Vietnam even after the brutal events of 1963 as Diem’s regime may have been harsh, but as far as Kennedy’s administration was concerned, at least it wasn’t Communist.

The memory of Kennedy’s legendary stand-off with Communism would linger in the halls of the White House after his death. No future president would dare look weak in front of the Communists, prompting a military invasion of Vietnam by Johnson and a perception that any failure to contain Communism was a de-facto failure of the current American administration. Debates about whether the Vietnam War would have been conducted differently if Kennedy had been at the helm endure. Kennedy balked at appearing weak in front of the Communists, but he was a far more able negotiator than his successors and, it is said by some, would have brought Vietnam to a peaceful conclusion far quicker. But part of Kennedy’s success was due to his international grandstanding. His image as young, energetic and tough chimed well with the mood of a US that wanted an assertive nation and cut away from the stagnation of the Eisenhower years and the defeats under Truman. It is unlikely Kennedy would have ordered a full withdrawal at Vietnam, but part of his enduring persona has, like the issues surrounding civil rights, created a myth that things would have been very different—and better—had he survived.

The bleak days of November 1963 would haunt America forever. Kennedy’s funeral took place on 25 November, three days after his assassination. As his funeral procession made its long march up to St Matthew’s Cathedral, it was accompanied by Black Jack, a riderless horse symbolizing the loss of a great leader. When his casket was brought out after the service, foreign dignitaries including Charles de Gaulle and thousands of American citizens watched in silence. Troops of the United States Navy brought the casket down the steep steps, and as it reached the bottom, Jackie Kennedy knelt down and whispered to her son, John Jr: “John, you can salute your daddy now and say goodbye to him.” Author William Manchester noted: “Of all of Monday’s images, nothing approached the force of John’s salute… it was heart-wrenching.” In summing up the day’s events, columnist Mary McGrory wrote of “grief nobly borne.” Kennedy’s final resting place was the Arlington National Cemetery – as befitting an American hero.

RESI

Just months before his untimely death, John F Kennedy speaks as president at a press conference.

© Getty images

Kennedy's Early Career and the Kennedy Clan

The assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy on November 22, 1963, has such powerful gravity in our imaginations that it tends to warp our assessment of him as both man and politician. Yet the bare facts alone make Kennedy remarkable. As the 35th president of the United States, he was the youngest elected to that office and its only Catholic president. A Pulitzer Prize-winner and war hero, he became the image of the new America that was emerging in the early 1960s.

ABOVE LEFT Groomed for success. Joseph Kennedy Sr. with his sons John and Joseph Jr. (Joe) in London, 1937, when Joseph Sr. was stationed there as American ambassador. Once it became clear he would not achieve the presidency himself, he transferred his hopes to his sons.

ABOVE RIGHT Action man—naval lieutenant, decorated war hero, and future President John F. Kennedy on board the torpedo boat he commanded in the Southwest Pacific during World War II.

From the moment of his birth on May 29, 1917, John F. Kennedy could not be said to be an average American. He was born into a prominent family that enjoyed a position of wealth and high-level influence within Boston's Irish community. JFK's father, Joseph P. Kennedy, was a businessman and political insider who managed to cultivate influence and carve a fortune worth more than $2.8 billion in today's terms.

Despite legitimate investments in banking, movie production, and real estate, Joseph P. Kennedy was never able to escape the popular belief that his fortune came from bootlegging alcohol during Prohibition. He certainly had contact with gangsters such as Frank Costello—known as the "prime minister of the underworld"—and head of the Chicago Syndicate Sam "Momo" Giancana. Joseph even invested money in a Florida racetrack with key Mafia associate Meyer Lansky.

Joseph P. Kennedy's role in funding Franklin Roosevelt's successful bid for the presidency in 1932 was rewarded with his appointment as ambassador to the Court of St. James (United Kingdom) in 1938. Both JFK and his elder brother Joseph Jr. studied at the London School of Economics whilst their father became an increasingly controversial figure. Joseph proposed appeasing Hitler and opposed giving Britain military and economic aid. Former British Cabinet member Josiah Wedgwood described the ambassador as "a rich man, untrained in diplomacy, unlearned in history, a great publicity seeker and who apparently is ambitious to be the first Catholic president of the U.S."

However, Joseph's falling out with President Roosevelt over foreign policy and remarks such as "Democracy is finished in England. It may be here too," helped end his presidential ambitions. Instead he concentrated on getting his sons elected to the highest office. When Joseph Jr. was killed on a bombing run in 1944, his father put all of his dynastic desire behind JFK and his younger brother Robert F. Kennedy.

John F. Kennedy was disqualified from the U.S. Army in 1941 owing to back problems. Using contacts with the Office of Naval Intelligence, he managed to get himself assigned to the navy, rising to the rank of lieutenant and commanding a torpedo patrol boat. When his boat was rammed by the Japanese destroyer *Amagiri*, JFK towed a badly injured crewman to safety on an island with a life-jacket strap held between his teeth. For this act of bravery, he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

In 1947, being a decorated war hero and his father's political muscle helped John F. Kennedy to become the U.S. representative for the 11th congressional district in Massachusetts. By 1952, he was well enough established as a politician to take on the incumbent Republican Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. and become a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. During his first year as a Senator, JFK married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier, daughter of Wall Street stockbroker John Vernou Bouvier III.

Over the next two years, JFK underwent many operations for chronic back pain. At one point he was so ill that the last rites were administered. His health problems were so severe that he was often absent from the Senate. However, during convalescence, he managed to publish a book entitled *Profiles In Courage* (covering a selection of Senators) which won him a Pulitzer Prize for biography. Later, claims would be made that Kennedy's speechwriter Ted Sorensen had ghostwritten the book for him.

John F. Kennedy failed in the ballot to become the Democrat candidate for Vice President in 1956. This was in part the result of the poor view many liberals in his party had of his family's close association with the discredited anti-communist Senator Joseph McCarthy. When JFK entered into the race to become the Democrats' candidate for President in 1960, therefore, it was as an underdog.

In the primaries for his party's nomination, his father's money allowed for unprecedented levels of campaign advertising, but it was JFK's personal charm and public tackling of anti-Catholic prejudice that did more to achieve victories in Wisconsin and West Virginia. By the time he had secured the nomination for President, a carefully crafted image of Kennedy as a vigorous young leader, skilled politician, and highly moral and loving family man had been developed. It was an image accepted by a significant proportion of Americans, and one that helped propel him toward fulfilling Joseph Kennedy's dream of seeing his son in the White House.

However, the shadowed truth about JFK was somewhat different.

ABOVE Crowd pleaser. Senator John F. Kennedy works an enthusiastic crowd with his wife Jackie while campaigning for President in the 1960 election.

BELOW Christmas at Camelot. President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy pose with their family and Jackie's sister and brother-in-law on Christmas Day at the White House, Washington, D.C., December 25, 1962. From left: Caroline Kennedy, unidentified, John F. Kennedy Jr., Jackie Kennedy, Anthony Radziwill, JFK, Prince Stanislaus Radziwill, Lee Radziwill, and Ann Christine Radziwill.

JACQUELINE KENNEDY

During JFK's presidency, Jacqueline Kennedy was transformed in the eyes of most of America from a somewhat effete electoral liability—her elite background was evidenced by her fluency in French—into a fashion icon and emblematic ideal of a political wife. Spending $45,446 of her husband's first-year $100,000 presidential salary on fashion by designers such as Oleg Cassini, Dior, Givenchy, and Chanel gave rise to the "Jackie" look that still enjoys periodic revivals. Her management of the White House restoration turned it into an iconic showcase of American history, art, and literature. As First Lady, she was the epitome of motherhood and style, and she helped to bring glamor and celebrity to politics. However, the public image was heavily manipulated, and her use of the amphetamine Dexedrine and her pain at JFK's affairs were kept well away from public scrutiny.

Kennedy's Controversies

Modern opinion polls among the American public regularly rank JFK as one of the greatest presidents of all time. Yet contemporary views of his presidency were more muted. Before the tragedy of his murder clouded memory and judgement, approval of Kennedy as either President or a man was often hard to find. The 1,036-day span of his presidency was not free from considerable controversy.

Most newly elected presidents are gifted with at least a short honeymoon period. However, the nature of Kennedy's election victory robbed him of any hope of that. Even more than the disputed 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore, Kennedy's win has been recorded in history as a stolen election.

The 1960 campaign for the White House between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon had been one of the bitterest ever seen. When the votes were tallied, JFK achieved victory by an incredibly slim margin. The result rested on just two states—Texas and Illinois. However it was clear there had been widespread fraud across Texas and especially in Cook County, Illinois.

In one Texas county there were only 4,895 registered voters, but 6,138 votes cast—with more than 75 percent favoring Kennedy. In Chicago, voters occupying cemetery plots voted for Kennedy and when one reporter went to an address where 56 Kennedy voters were registered, he found the building long demolished. A Department of Justice investigation into election fraud aroused suspicions of a cover-up as the head of the DOJ was none other than U.S. Attorney-General Robert F. Kennedy.

Nixon was urged by his aides to challenge the result. He refused, saying: "It would tear the country to pieces. You can't do that." However, Nixon nursed a harsh grudge, repeatedly telling close colleagues: "That son of a bitch Kennedy stole it."

The electoral fraud was not the only grudge Nixon held against Kennedy. During the election, JFK received a top-secret briefing on a proposed invasion of Cuba by a CIA-trained force of Cuban exiles in an attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro. In their fourth TV debate, Kennedy broke this trust and called on Nixon to support just such an idea. For reasons of national security, Nixon had to be seen to deny such a plan, attacking it as "dangerously irresponsible." This made him look weak on Cuba.

On the advice of CIA director Allen Dulles and his senior generals, Kennedy continued to back the secret invasion plans when he became President. On January 21, 1961, Kennedy authorized Operation Zapata—a CIA-backed invasion of the Bay of Pigs some 90 miles south-east of the capital Havana. However, the CIA lied to JFK, failing to tell him Soviet radio stations were predicting "a CIA-hatched plot using paid criminals" a week before it was set to be launched.

ABOVE Castro's Cuban forces use heavy artillery to pound the American-backed rebels during the unsuccessful Operation Zapata. The failed invasion became known as the Bay of Pigs disaster and cast a long, sinister shadow across JFK's presidency.

BELOW A dirty business. Senator John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Richard Nixon during the intense second televised presidential debate. Kennedy's slim victory in the 1960 election was partly the result of alleged electoral fraud.

WE MARCH FOR JOBS FOR ALL NOW!
WE DEMAND VOTING RIGHTS NOW!
UAW SAYS: END SEGREGATED RULES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WE MARCH FOR INTEGRATED SCHOOLS NOW!
WE MARCH FOR JOBS FOR ALL A DECENT PAY NOW!
WE DEMAND EQUAL RIGHTS NOW!

ABOVE More than 200,000 protesters gather to demand equal rights for black Americans on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. during August 1963. Among them is key civil rights campaigner Martin Luther King Jr. (fourth from left).

BELOW Mariella Novotny was a prostitute who worked out of the infamous Quorum Club in Washington, DC. As well as enjoying an affair with JFK, she was embroiled in the Profumo sex scandal in London in 1963.

The resulting Bay of Pigs invasion was a complete disaster. Within three days of the invasion starting, 114 Cuban exiles from what was known as Brigade 2506 were dead as were four American airmen. Hundreds of Cuban exiles and several CIA operatives were later executed by Castro's forces, who also held prisoner more than 1,200 invaders.

The extreme embarrassment to the Kennedy Administration caused by the Bay of Pigs made it reluctant to back any further military intervention in Cuba. This resulted in virulent anti-Kennedy feeling among many Cuban exiles and CIA agents involved in the invasion such as E. Howard Hunt. Kennedy subsequently sacked Dulles and was so enraged with the failure of the CIA that he declared he would splinter it into "a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds." Kennedy also told journalist Ben Bradlee: "The first advice I'm giving my successor is watch the generals."

On the domestic front, the Kennedy Administration was mired down when it came to making progress on the key issue of ending state-sanctioned racial discrimination. During his presidency, the issue of civil rights spiraled from turbulence to increasing violence and murder. JFK found himself in the firing line of both sides.

To the right-wingers and many white southern Democrats, Kennedy was dangerously eroding the power of the states. To the black community, he was betraying the support that he had promised for racial integration and civil rights during the 1960 election. Despite his pro-civil rights speeches in 1963, JFK seemed powerless to stop a rising tide of blood against those who wanted an end to the persecution of black Americans.

Even an event now judged to be one of Kennedy's finest displays of statesmanship—the successful avoiding of a nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis—was seen by many Americans at the time as capitulation to communism. General Curtis LeMay told the President: "It is the greatest defeat in our history." It was a view shared by many in the military, the CIA, and America's right-wing.

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S WOMEN

JFK enjoyed a public image as a doting father and devoted husband, an image carefully constructed from a stream of relaxed family snapshots and home movies. However, behind the media surface was a different, dissonant reality. Kennedy enjoyed a string of affairs with women throughout his marriage. Most of them were known about and tolerated by his wife. The women ranged from White House staff such as Marion "Mimi" Beardsley and Jill S. Cowan to women with more dubious reputations, including Mariella Novotny—an English prostitute linked to the Profumo Affair. Worryingly, Kennedy shared a bed with possible East German spy Ellen Rometsch and with Judith Exner, the mistress of Mafia boss Sam Giancana. However, there is no evidence to substantiate rumors that JFK slept with Marilyn Monroe.

Prelude to a Killing

Every choice has invisible antecedents. The fall of dominos leading to JFK's assassination may have begun on June 5, 1963, when Kennedy met with his Texan Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and Texas Governor John Connally in El Paso, Texas. A fund-raising and support-boosting trip to Texas was agreed on ahead of the 1964 presidential election. Kennedy had barely won Texas in 1960 and hoped the visit would help him in the state. He also hoped to end the conflict between his ally Senator Ralph Yarborough and LBJ supporter Governor Connally.

Kennedy may not have known he was heading to his death by agreeing to the trip, but others seemed to. On November 20, Rose Cheramie—a former stripper for Jack Ruby (the nightclub owner later convicted of the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald)—was hit by a car on Highway 190 in Louisiana. She was taken to a private hospital, but as she was exhibiting signs of drug withdrawal, Lt. Francis Frugé of the Louisiana State Police was called. While Frugé was transporting Rose to another hospital, she told him she had been traveling to Galveston, Texas as a drug courier for Jack Ruby and that the two men she was traveling with were going to kill the President in Dallas in a few days. She repeated the claims to a hospital psychiatrist and nurses.

Frugé originally thought her story was drug-withdrawal ramblings, but after the assassination he interviewed Rose. Finding the details of what she said to be factually accurate, Frugé's boss rang Captain Will Fritz of the Dallas Police. Fritz was not interested. Rose Cheramie died in Texas in 1965 after being hit by a car on Highway 155.

Eugene Dinkin was a U.S. army cryptographic operator based in Metz, France. On November 4, 1963, Dinkin went AWOL. Two days later he appeared in the press room of the United Nations in Geneva, telling reporters of a plot against President Kennedy and that "something would happen in Dallas." On November 13, Dinkin was arrested and placed in a military psychiatric hospital. A comrade reported that he had told him the assassination would happen on November 22. Although the Warren Commission was aware of Dinkin's allegations, they did not investigate Dinkin. CIA documents on Dinkin submitted to them were classified and not available to the public, as were calls made to the U.S. Naval Attaché in

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
116 801
10 21 64

LEFT Prophetess of doom. The police mug shot of Rose Cheramie, former stripper and self-confessed drug runner for Jack Ruby. Cheramie was one of a handful of people who appear to have had genuine and provable foreknowledge of the fact that President Kennedy was to be assassinated in Dallas.

BELOW Lord of lies. The man known as "Tricky Dicky" was infamous for having a strained relationship with the truth, even for a politician. However, why did he lie about where he was when he first heard of Kennedy's death?

WHAT WAS NIXON DOING IN DALLAS?

As with 9/11 for a later generation, those Americans alive at the time can all remember where they were when they heard that JFK had been killed. Everyone except Richard Nixon. He used to tell a strange white lie and say he was in a New York cab flagged down by a crying woman when he discovered the news. He wasn't. Newspaper reports prove that he knew about the death when he got off a plane in New York that had just flown in from Dallas. He had been in the city between November 20 and 22, holding meetings. He may even have heard of JFK's death while attending a Pepsi-Cola conference in Dallas on November 22. Whether or not he was at the infamous Murchison meeting (see page 11,) Nixon was with actress and Pepsi heiress Joan Crawford on November 21 in Dallas when she made oddly prophetic comments about them not needing security to visit the city, unlike JFK.

LEFT The last hours. Flanked by (left to right) Senator Ralph Yarborough, Texas Governor John Connally, and Vice President Lyndon Johnson, President Kennedy addresses the crowds gathered to see him at Forth Worth, Texas on the morning of November 22.

BELOW Dallas, nut country. When JFK saw the virulent attack on him in a full-page ad in the *Dallas Morning News* entitled "Welcome Mr. Kennedy To Dallas" paid for by members of the Hunt oil dynasty, he referred to Dallas as "nut country." Therefore the size and warmth of the crowds greeting him in the city came as a huge surprise.

Australia, Lt. Commander Piper, warning him of a plot to kill President Kennedy ahead of the assassination.

Another individual with near-prophetic abilities was right-wing extremist Joseph Milteer. On November 10, 1963, Miami police provided a tape to the FBI and the Secret Service made by an informant who had infiltrated a far-right group. On it was a recording of Milteer saying that there was a plot to kill JFK "From an office building with a high-powered rifle... They will pick somebody up within hours afterwards... Just to throw the public off." Despite this, the FBI and Secret Service did not interview Milteer, nor did they strengthen security for the President in Dallas.

The decision of the Secret Service not to improve protection in Dallas seems even stranger given that American UN ambassador Adlai Stevenson was heckled, spat on, and physically attacked by right-wing activists while in Dallas on October 24. Stevenson feared Kennedy would face similar antagonism and warned him not to go. After the attack on Stevenson, Dallas was officially declared a hostile city, but instead of following established protocols for such an environment, the Secret Service reduced security by taking off the limousine's bubble-top, not riding on the back of the car, and allowing open windows along the route. The 112th Military Intelligence Group at Fort Sam in Texas was ordered to stand down on presidential security despite the protests of the unit's commander Colonel Reich.

Lyndon B. Johnson's mistress Madeleine Brown later alleged that on November 20 or 21, a meeting was held at the home of Texas oilman Clint Murchison. Supposedly among those in attendance were LBJ, Richard Nixon, oilman H.L. Hunt, and banker and later Warren Commission member John McCloy. According to Brown, after the meeting LBJ emerged and told her: "That son-of-bastard Yarborough and that god damn f***ing Irish mafia bastard Kennedy will never embarrass me again."

Whatever had caused LBJ to make such a statement, he was to give no indication of it as he, Connally, and Yarborough watched the President address a rally in Fort Worth on the morning of November 22. Despite rain, a crowd of several thousand responded positively to JFK's message of space exploration, American prosperity, and American strength. Once his words ended, Kennedy reached out into a friendly mass of outstretched arms, shaking hands and exchanging smiles. As he drove to Carswell Air Force Base for the 13-minute flight to Dallas, he had no idea how words from his last speech—"This is a very dangerous and uncertain world"—were about to sound chillingly prescient.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Nothing about Lee Harvey Oswald makes sense. The more energy you put into examining his life, the more it becomes a fractal explosion of unfolding mysteries. How was a defector who told officials he was going to give the Soviets secrets allowed to return home without punishment? How did an average marksman pull off shots none of the U.S. government's best marksmen could accomplish? Why does evidence show him as being in two places at the same time?

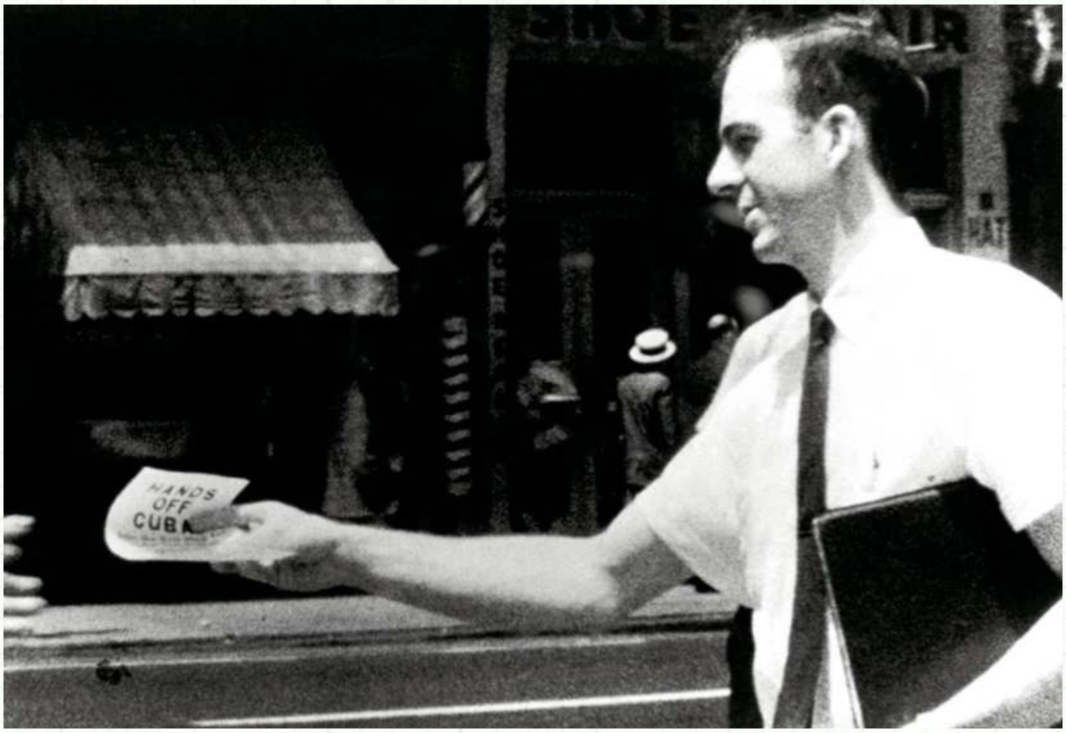
The biggest question is why he would shoot John F. Kennedy. Even the Warren Commission failed to provide a convincing explanation for his motives. They could only offer: "Oswald was moved by an overriding hostility to his environment." If you are trying to suggest that the highest-profile murder in American history is the work of a lone gunman, not making a convincing argument as to his actual motivation for the killing is a huge drawback.

If there was a conspiracy, it was designed to involve Oswald—either as an active player or as a patsy. If there was a conspiracy, it was also designed to be a double murder, with Oswald set to be the second victim. A corpse that could not answer questions, but that of a man whose high-profile Marxist and pro-Castro views would suggest a set of obvious conclusions which would not be challenged at trial. However, across the decades, researchers have unearthed hundreds of questions about Oswald that have never been satisfactorily answered.

Lee Harvey Oswald was born in New Orleans in 1939. As a teenager he was a member of a Civil Air Patrol group run by David Ferrie (see page 86.)

In October 1956, aged 17, Lee enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. His career as a radar operator meant a security clearance allowing him to be posted to the CIA's U-2 spy-plane base in Atsugi, Japan. This was despite him openly professing himself a Marxist and pro-Soviet. Unusually, he received training in Russian while in the Marines, though he never qualified as an expert marksman. Among Lee's friends in the Marines was Kerry Thornley. In 1962, Thornley wrote a novel called *The Idle Warriors* about a marine defecting to Russia, based on Oswald.

In October 1959, Oswald traveled to Moscow. Once there, he announced his intention to give radar secrets to the Soviets and handed his passport to the U.S. Embassy. Oswald spent the next 19 months in Russia, marrying Marina Prusakova, the niece of a KGB colonel. Strangely, while Oswald was in Russia, someone in New Orleans used his



ABOVE Family man. Lee Harvey Oswald, his wife Marina, and their daughter June Lee, taken while the family was living in the Soviet Union. Why was a former Marine who proclaimed in advance he would give military secrets to the Russians allowed to return to the United States without censure?

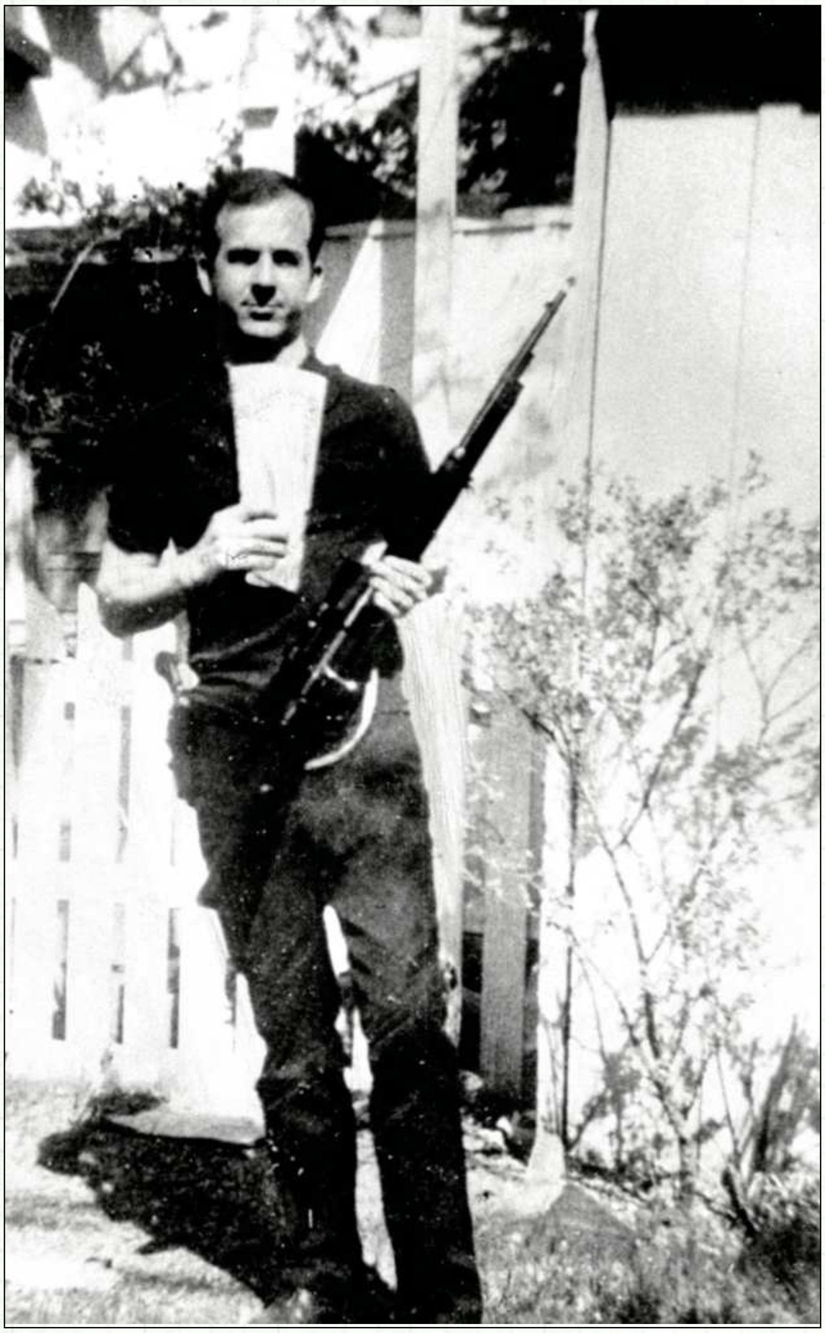
LEFT Will the Real Lee Harvey Oswald please step forward? Oswald distributes Hands Off Cuba flyers on the streets of New Orleans, Louisiana. However, at the time he did this he was working out of the same offices as anti-Castro campaigners and often seen in the company of anti-Castro Cuban exiles. What were his true sympathies? What was he really up to?

THE ODD COUPLE—GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT AND OSWALD

Among the multitude of things about Oswald so contradictory that they defy sense is his relationship with George de Mohrenschildt. There is no logic to explain why a Marxist defector would be best friends with a wealthy, rabidly anti-communist Russian émigré and supporter of the National Alliance of Russian Solidarists (N.T.S.)—an anti-Soviet group founded by MI6 and run by the CIA. George de Mohrenschildt was 35 years older than Oswald and an openly right-wing extremist. Involved in the oil business, he counted George H.W. Bush, H.L. Hunt, and Clint Murchison among his friends, and was not a natural companion for Oswald. Why the two were friends remains a striking mystery. In 1977, de Mohrenschildt admitted discussing befriending Oswald with the CIA's Domestic Contact Division, and his later career saw him working with the CIA in Haiti. Many conspiriologists have asked, was he working with them before in looking after Oswald?

ABOVE RIGHT A Very Soviet Union?—The Oswalds in Minsk, 1959. Lee Harvey Oswald met his future wife Marina Marina Prusakova at a trade union dance whilst he was working in a factory in Minsk in 1959. The backgrounds of the couple made them an odd pair for George de Mohrenschildt to befriend.

RIGHT Faked. This infamous photo of Oswald, allegedly found in the home of his friend Ruth Paine, contains more than a dozen elements which lead many photographic experts to conclude it was forged to incriminate Oswald. Among the issues are shadows falling in different directions and no finger tips on the right hand. In questioning, Oswald himself claimed it was an obvious composite.



identity to buy trucks for the pro-Castro Friends of Democratic Cuba group linked to Guy Banister, a private investigator and former FBI agent. An FBI memo from 1960 also shows someone in America using Lee's identity.

In May 1962, Oswald, Marina, and their daughter applied to leave the Soviet Union for America. Marina's leaving was not blocked by the Soviets and, despite previously announcing himself a traitor, Oswald was given a repatriation loan and faced no charges. This was without precedent. On his return to Texas, Oswald—although a former traitor—got a job at Jaggar-Chiles-Stoval, a company doing classified map work for the U.S. Army. This was beyond odd. As is the idea that instead of anonymously buying guns from any Texan retailer, Oswald used the alias A.J. Hidell to buy a revolver and rifle by mail order.

Between April and September 1963, Oswald was in New Orleans. He was seen among anti-Castro Cuban exiles working with Guy Banister while at the same time operating a one-man branch of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Back in Texas in September, the supposedly Marxist pro-Castro Oswald was introduced to Cuban exile Silvia Odio as "Leon," an American involved in a plan to assassinate Castro.

At the same time that "Leon" was introduced to Odio, Oswald is alleged to have been in Mexico, visiting the Cuban and Soviet embassies. CIA photos claiming to show Oswald doing this are clearly not him. On November 23, the FBI sent a memo to the White House advising that someone impersonating Oswald had phoned and visited the Soviet Embassy in Mexico but that the "individual was not Lee Harvey Oswald."

One clear fact is that in October, three weeks after JFK's Dallas trip was announced, Oswald's friend Ruth Paine helped him get a job at the Texas School Book Depository.

All the odd elements of Oswald's life have led many to claim he must have been working for U.S. intelligence. Some such as John Armstrong even claim there must have been two Oswalds. With his tax returns, Office of Naval Intelligence files, and dozens of CIA files relating to Oswald still classified, it is impossible to know the truth, or to solve the mystery of Lee Harvey Oswald. One thing is certain; the wildest theory about Oswald is that there was anything simple about this alleged lone gunman.

The Assassination

At 11:40am, Air Force One touched down at Love Field in Dallas. The sky was gin-bottle blue and cloud-free, the weather warmer than forecast when Jackie Kennedy had decided to wear a pink Chanel wool suit. As the First Lady stepped from the plane, she was handed a bouquet of blood-red roses. The shouts of an elated crowd roared toward President Kennedy and his wife.

ABOVE The last kiss of sun. In the final seconds prior to the assassination, President Kennedy takes in the adulation of the crowd. Nellie Connally, seen in front of the Kennedys with her husband, had just told JFK: "Mr. President, you can't say that Dallas doesn't love you."

The motorcade was scheduled to leave Love Field airport at 11:30am. The drive through Dallas was expected to take 45 minutes, with the President arriving for a luncheon at 12:15pm. The motorcade was to pass through Dealey Plaza at around 12:10pm. However, the late arrival of Air Force One was compounded by the President spending more time with the crowd awaiting his arrival than predicted. JFK went to the people, pressing outstretched hands and being grabbed as if his touch would cure the sick as with the fabled prophets of old. The motorcade eventually moved away more than 15 minutes late.

It is impossible to determine conclusively where Lee Harvey Oswald was in the Texas School Book Depository (T.S.B.D.) between 12:00 and 12:32pm as the motorcade made its way toward his location. One witness places him in the TSBD's second-floor lunchroom as late as 12:25pm, making the alleged assassin seem nonchalant about his mission. Even discounting this testimony, Oswald seems unlikely to have been on the

JAMES POWELL AND THE FAKE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS OF DEALEY PLAZA

After the shooting, there were officially no Secret Service agents in Dealey Plaza until Forrest Sorrels, the Secret Service agent in charge of the Dallas office, returned to the area from Parkland Memorial Hospital at 1:00pm. However, testimony from witnesses reveals several men flashed credentials and claimed to be Secret Service in the aftermath of the murder. Conspiracy debunkers have suggested this mystery can be solved by off-duty agents being present. The only known off-duty agent was James Powell of the 112th Intelligence Group. Powell's usual job was photographic surveillance of domestic dissidents like Oswald. Powell took a photograph of the open window and sniper's nest of boxes on the sixth floor of the Book Depository less than a minute after the shooting.

LEFT Loves lies bleeding. Jacqueline Kennedy protectively wraps herself around her fatally shot husband, cradling the President's body in a clear act of love. Some vastly misguided conspiracy theorists have ludicrously accused Jackie of shooting her own husband with a concealed pistol.

BELOW When bullets fly, confusion is king. Secret Service Agent Clint Hill does his duty, climbing onto the President's limousine and into the line of fire to protect Mrs. Kennedy and the downed Chief Executive. However, many questions remain about other actions by the Secret Service during the assassination.

sixth floor of the building before 12:20pm as his colleague Bonnie Ray Williams was there eating his lunch and saw no one.

The President's limousine was driven by Agent William Greer with Agent Roy Kellerman beside him. In front of John and Jackie Kennedy were Governor Connally and his wife Nellie. Senator Yarborough was originally meant to be in JFK's car until a row saw LBJ forced to have him in the Vice President's car.

There were thousands on the streets of downtown Dallas. It was a larger and more positive crowd than Kennedy had expected. Thousands of flyers featuring mug shots of JFK and proclaiming "Wanted For Treason" were distributed in Dallas on November 21. On the morning of November 22 the *Dallas Morning News* printed an ominous full-page ad, bordered in black like an obituary, attacking Kennedy as appeasing communism. When JFK saw it he said: "We're heading into nut country today." The ad was funded by a member of the Hunt oil dynasty.

As the motorcade came to the end of Houston Street, Nellie Connally turned to JFK, saying: "Mr. President, you can't say that Dallas doesn't love you." Kennedy beamed at her. They were probably the last words he heard.

It is this point in the route that provokes one of the biggest mysteries of the assassination. If Oswald was the lone shooter in the T.S.B.D., why did he not shoot Kennedy as the car moved slowly along Houston Street toward him? It provided a clearer shot and much more time.

It was 12:30pm as the motorcade turned onto Elm Street in front of the T.S.B.D. The first shot rang out. The Warren Commission thought this shot missed and caused the wound to witness James Tague. Others, including Governor Connally, believed the first shot hit JFK. To the majority of witnesses, there was a pause then they heard two more shots closer together.

On the film shot by witness Abraham Zapruder we can see Kennedy clutching at his throat and Governor Connally turning towards him. Connally is not injured. Turning to his other side, Connally was hit in the back, crying out: "Oh no, no, no. My God, they are going to kill us all."

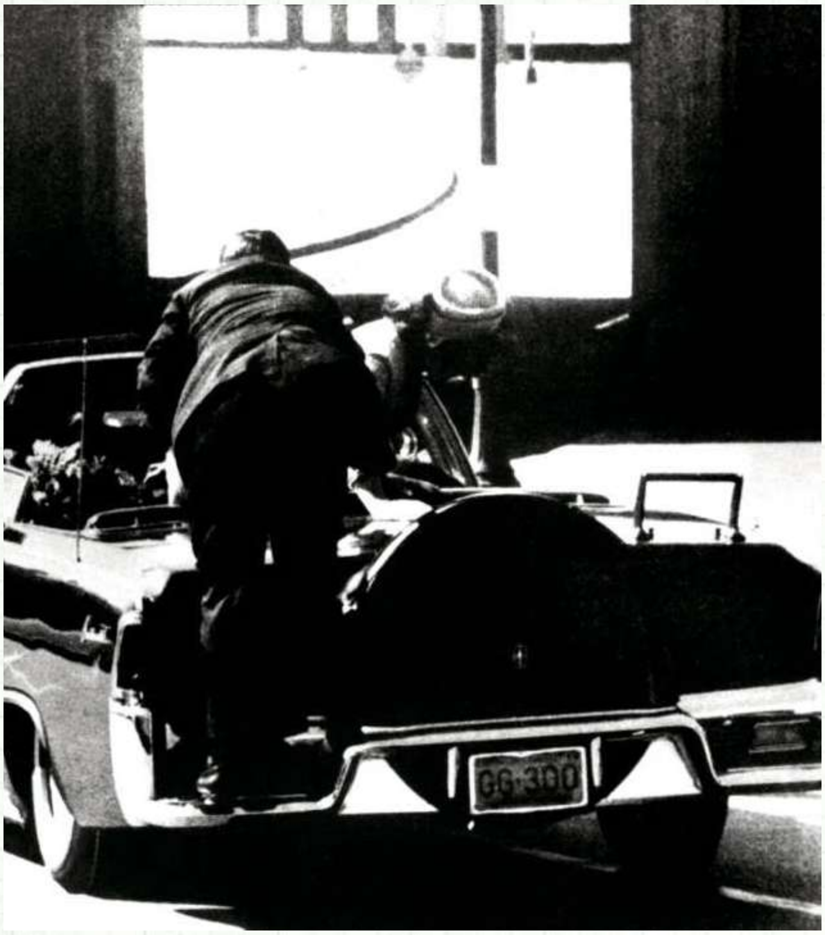
Agent Kellerman shouted: "We're hit!" Instead of following standard procedure, Agent Greer hit the brakes, slowing the car. The third shot rang out, exploding President Kennedy's head.

Agent Clint Hill leapt from the running board of the follow-up car as Mrs. Kennedy climbed out onto the rear of the limo to retrieve a piece of her husband's head. As sirens erupted and the limousine sped towards Parkland Memorial Hospital, Jackie Kennedy said: "They have killed my husband. I have his brains in my hand."

As the motorcade sped away, many in the shocked crowd at Dealey Plaza dropped to the ground or sought out cover. Police rushed toward the grassy knoll to hunt the assassins that they thought were there. Police near the T.S.B.D. were alerted by members of the public who thought they had heard shots come from the building.

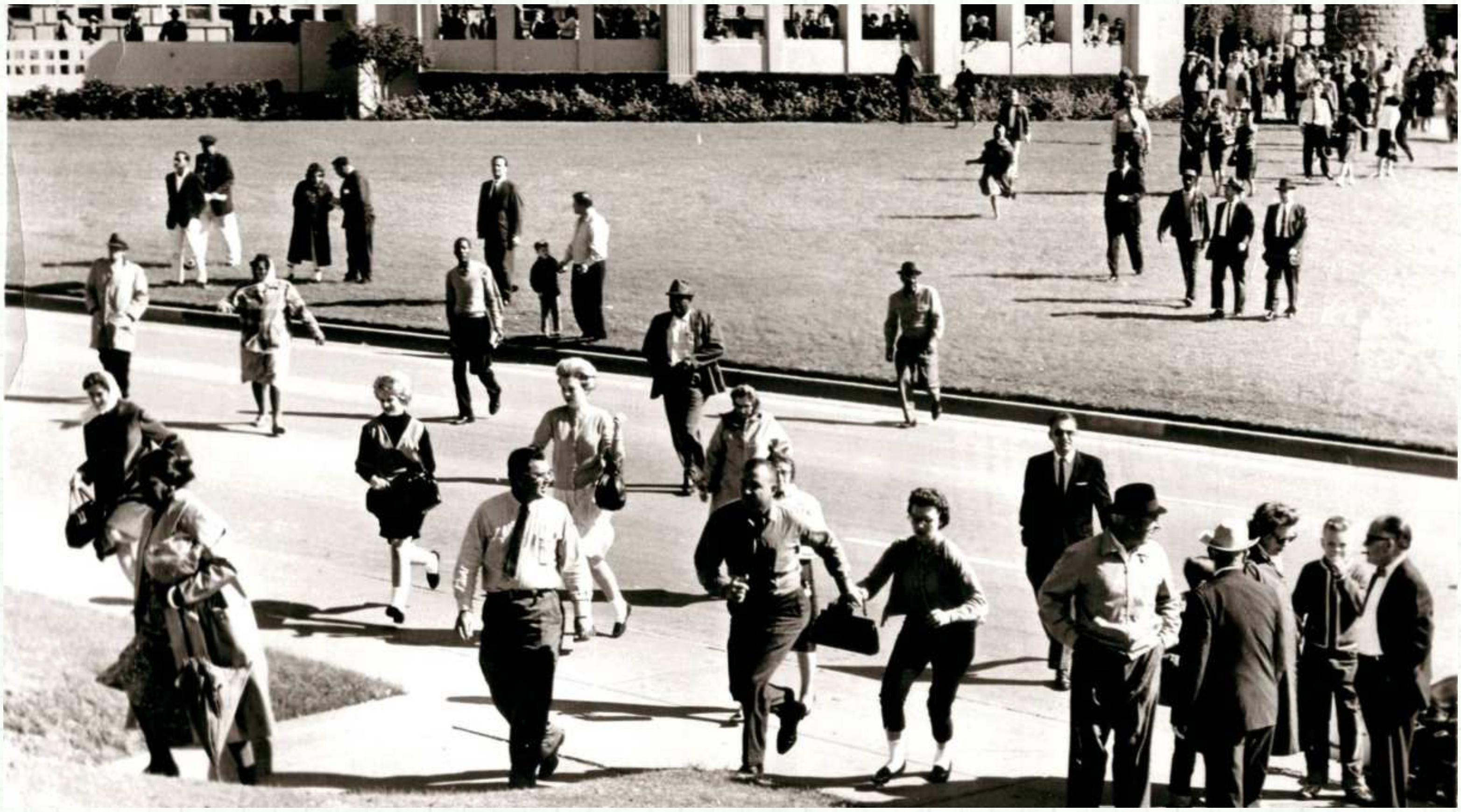
At 12:38pm the presidential limousine came to a halt outside the hospital. Mrs. Kennedy held her husband's body. Blood ran from his head onto her clothes and down her leg. She said: "They've murdered my husband. They've murdered my husband."

Clint Hill took off his jacket and leaned over the President's body. Turning to his colleagues, he announced: "He's dead."



Aftermath

Most of those in Dealey Plaza who heard the first shot thought it was a firecracker or a car backfiring. By the time they heard the second shot, they knew it was gunfire. As the President's head was carved open by a bullet, his brain exploding in a pink spray, the first screams came. Bill Newman, lying on the grass of the knoll and covering his son, beat his fists against the ground with frustration.



Of the Dealey Plaza witnesses I have personally spoken to, the one with greatest clarity was Associated Press photographer Ike Altgens. He told of shock stopping his finger when it should have captured the moment of Kennedy's death, and recounted the confusion and paralysis holding onlookers in the first few seconds after they saw their President shot.

Altgens said: "Everyone froze or hit the ground. There was a stillness. I took another picture. Then police and people were rushing up the grassy knoll on the north side of Elm. I followed. I thought they were going to get the guy who did it. I wanted a picture of him."

Patrolman Joe Smith was one of the first up the knoll. He had been alerted by shouts: "They are shooting the President from the bushes." Approaching the parking lot behind the knoll, he smelt gunpowder and found a man who identified himself as Secret Service. Later Smith and Police Chief Jesse Curry would both say the man was "bogus." Within minutes, dozens of officers were searching around the knoll.

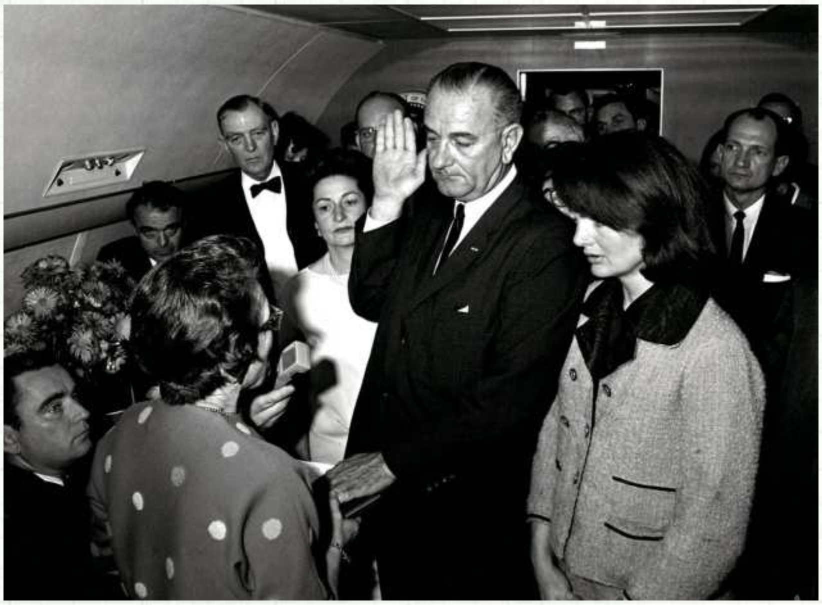
Most witnesses in Dealey Plaza thought the shots came from the knoll, but others believed that they had come from the Dal-Tex building or the Texas School Book Depository. Patrolman Marion Baker thought he heard shots coming from that direction. Seeing pigeons flying from the T.S.B.D., he ran into it, followed by the building's manager Roy Truly. On the second floor they found Oswald drinking a Coke. If Oswald were the assassin, he would have had to stash his rifle, race down the stairs, and buy the Coke within 90 seconds of the last shot. Oswald left the T.S.B.D. at 12:35pm by the front entrance. Shortly afterward, police sealed the building, finding a rifle between a stack of boxes on the sixth floor at 1:22pm.

The empty presidential limousine sat outside Parkland hospital, its back seat covered in bone, brain, and blood. Later, LBJ would order the car to be cleaned and rebuilt, destroying vital evidence. Inside the hospital, Jackie Kennedy sat outside the emergency room, still wearing bloodstained gloves, parts of her husband's brain entwined in her bracelet.

The doctors attending Kennedy thought the damage to his throat was an entry wound and recorded the back of his head as missing. Even though JFK was dead, Jackie wanted him to have the last rites. When Father Oscar Huber attended at 12:50pm, he found the President was already dead, his body

ABOVE Time unfrozen. Witnesses to the assassination tell of being paralyzed by the realization that they had just seen and heard the President being shot. As this moment of frozen time ended, many in the crowd at Dealey Plaza began rushing toward the grassy knoll—some because they thought they were fleeing to safety, some because they were running to catch the shooter.

ABOVE Empty testament. The presidential limousine lies empty at Parkland Memorial Hospital in the minutes after JFK had been rushed there. While it stood resting, vital forensic evidence was destroyed when orders were given to throw a bucket of water over the back of the vehicle to clear debris and blood.



totally covered by a bloodied sheet, but he still performed the ritual. Doctors declared JFK dead at 1:00pm, allowing for it to seem as if he had still been alive when the rites were received.

At 12:35pm, FBI head J. Edgar Hoover called Robert F. Kennedy. The two men had a long-standing enmity. Hoover said: "The President's been shot." Before RFK could ask any questions, Hoover put the phone down. There was no element of empathy. RFK later said Hoover had enjoyed telling him.

At 1:26pm, LBJ left the hospital, returning to Air Force One. At 1:30pm, the official announcement of JFK's death was made. As the news spread from radios and TV across the country, a tsunami of shock and grief crashed through millions of people. The majority of Dallas held its head in shame. Even the usually bustling streets of Manhattan were eerily quiet. America became a nation of whispers.

Doctors, police, and a judge told Secret Service agents that under Texan law, they could not take JFK's body until an autopsy had been completed. One of the Secret Service agents said: "F*** you!" A praying priest was shoved aside as the group of agents forced their way out of the hospital. A fight started. Guns were pulled. Jackie Kennedy found herself fleeing from Dallas beside her husband's remains. The Secret Service-led group sped toward Air Force One, knowing they had just broken the law and stolen the body of the President.

Back on Air Force One, LBJ had been making calls, including to his stockbroker. When Jackie Kennedy and JFK's aides boarded with the body, LBJ told them Bobby Kennedy had suggested he take the Oath of Office before they left Texas. This was a lie.

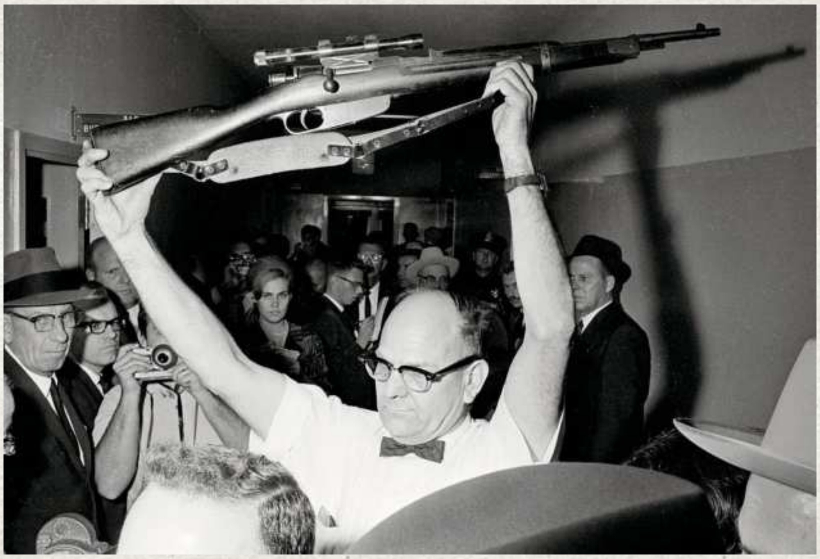
At 2:38pm, LBJ's old friend Judge Sarah T. Hughes swore him in as 36th President of the United States. Johnson insisted Jackie Kennedy be fetched from a restroom and stand beside him. Jackie refused to change out of her bloodstained clothes. She told Lady Bird Johnson: "I want them to see what they have done to Jack." Ashen and bloodied, she witnessed the violent transfer of power.

ABOVE Bloody transition. Lyndon Johnson is sworn in as President of the United States aboard Air Force One less than three hours after JFK's murder. LBJ insisted that the traumatized, blood-stained Jackie Kennedy stand beside him during the ceremony while it was being photographed.

BELOW Evidence handling. A Dallas policeman at Police Headquarters holds up the rifle allegedly used to kill President Kennedy to show to journalists. The evidence recording and handling procedures used during the arrest and charging of Oswald were at best a bad joke, at worst criminal.

THE SIXTH FLOOR EVIDENCE AGAINST OSWALD

In the aftermath of the assassination, television showed images of a Dallas detective holding aloft the rifle allegedly fired by Oswald. These did little to inspire belief that the local police investigation was a model of forensic scrutiny. The physical evidence paraded by Dallas police as recovered from the sixth floor of the T.S.B.D. has never convinced conspiriologists of Oswald's guilt. The police's best exhibits were a rifle without Oswald's fingerprints, a faulty scope, and three empty shell casings—one so dented it was unlikely to have been able to hold a bullet. However, the three shell casings were important to the Warren Commission's belief that Oswald fired three shots. In the 1990s, researcher Anna-Marie Kuhns-Walko found solid documentary evidence that only two shell casings were originally recovered from the T.S.B.D..



The Murder of Officer Tippit

The assassination of John F. Kennedy was not the only murder that took place in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Another slaying happened within an hour of JFK's death. Though less well known, the shooting of Dallas policeman J.D. Tippit is intrinsically linked to the events in Dealey Plaza.

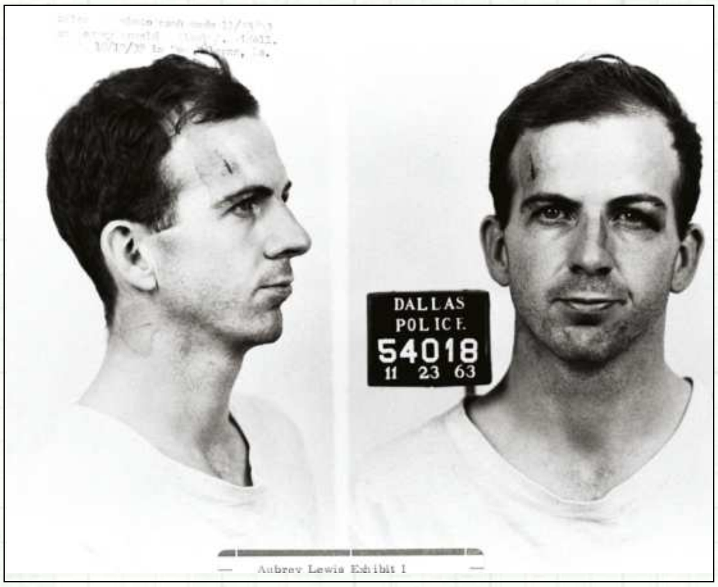
The execution of J.D. Tippit was as cold and cruel as Kennedy's killing. It was this murder that Lee Harvey Oswald was first arrested for. Not surprisingly, the events surrounding it feature heavily in many conspiracy theories.

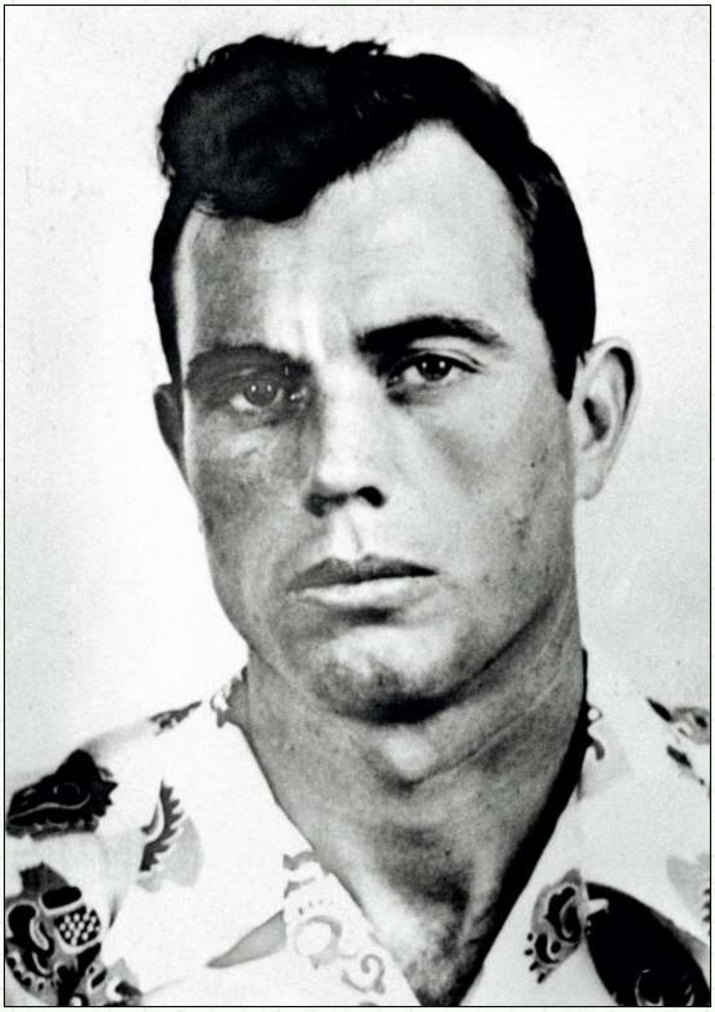
J.D. Tippit—whose initials stood for nothing in particular—was a World War II veteran and Bronze Star recipient. He was born to a family who could trace their ancestry to America's early settlers. Married with three children, he had been a member of the Dallas police for 11 years by 1963.

Tippit's car—Dallas Police vehicle #10—could often be found parked outside the Dobbs House Restaurant. Two days before his own death, Tippit was in Dobbs when another regular customer began to curse loudly over his order. Tippit shot a glance at the troublesome patron, but did nothing. In evidence to the Warren Commission, waitress Mary Dowling confirmed that the dissatisfied diner was Lee Harvey Oswald. She also confirmed that Tippit and Oswald knew each other, and that Jack Ruby also used Dobbs.

By 1:00pm on November 22, Oswald had returned to his boarding house. Shortly after, landlady Earlene Roberts saw "a police car stop directly in front. They sounded the horn, a kind of tit-tit—twice." She thought the car was numbered #107 and signaling Oswald: "They then drove away just before he came out." Roberts last saw Oswald at 1:04pm across the road waiting by a bus stop.

Between 1:11 and 1:14pm, Officer Tippit was driving slowly eastward on East 10th Street in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas. He was seen to pull alongside a man and exchange words before he opened his car door and began to walk around the front. At this point, officer Tippit was shot three times in the chest. After he had fallen to ground, a fourth shot was fired into his head, killing him.





Several witnesses saw the shooting and its aftermath. Later, some of these witnesses would identify Oswald as the killer. Tippit's fellow police officers were quickly informed of his shooting and a manhunt begun.

At around 1:35pm, shoe-store manager Johnny Brewer saw Oswald acting suspiciously in the doorway of his shop as police cars went by with sirens blazing. Brewer then followed Oswald to the Texas Theater cinema where he saw him sneak in. He alerted ticket seller Julie Pascal who called the police at 1:40pm.

At 1:50pm, more than two dozen policemen, sheriffs, and detectives arrived at the cinema to arrest Oswald for Tippit's killing. As detectives subdued Oswald, he repeatedly shouted: "I am not resisting arrest." As Oswald was punched and dragged out, Brewer heard a detective say: "Kill the President, will you." By 3:01pm, head of the FBI J. Edgar Hoover wrote a memo stating: "I called the Attorney General and told him I thought we had the man who killed the President down in Dallas."

ABOVE Patrolman J.D. Tippitt, whose murder in Dallas on November 22, 1963 was the first crime Oswald was charged with. Strangely, Tippitt was nicknamed "JFK" by some of his colleagues who saw a physical resemblance between the two men.

LEFT America's Most Wanted—Dallas Police Department mug shots of Lee Harvey Oswald following his arrest for possible involvement in the John F. Kennedy assassination and the murder of Officer J.D. Tippit.

EMBARRASSING EVIDENCE

The physical evidence detailed by the Warren Commission in the Tippit shooting throws up some embarrassing issues for conspiracy debunkers. The Warren Commission claimed that Oswald left a light-colored jacket near the scene. The jacket was the wrong size for him, made in California, and contained dry-cleaning tags. Marina testified it was not his, and that Oswald had only two jackets, which were both Russian-made and never sent to a cleaners. Two of the shells recovered at the shooting were marked by policeman J.M. Poe with his initials. The shells later produced by the police and examined by the Commission were unmarked. Worse, Dallas Homicide had stated that three of the bullets retrieved from Tippit were Westerns and one a Remington. However, the bullets given to the FBI for testing were actually two Westerns and two Remingtons.

It should be an open and shut case that Oswald killed Tippit, but not for conspiracy theorists. For a start, even the Warren Commission found it difficult to have Oswald walk to the scene of the shooting in the timeframe needed. The witness identifications of Oswald were highly flawed, as he was placed in line-ups visibly beaten, against Hispanics, teens, and men in suits. Also, several witnesses not called by the Warren Commission offered a different version of the shooting.

Frank Wright reported a man wearing a long coat who was not Oswald by Tippit's body, who drove away in car. Acquilla Clemons saw two men, neither of which were Oswald; after the shooting, one man waved to another with his gun, urging him to "go on!" Clemons was later interviewed by someone posing as a detective who told her "Someone might hurt me if I talked about what I saw."

Warren Reynolds, who chased the gunman, was not sure it was Oswald either. He was finally interviewed by the FBI in January 1964. Two days later he was shot in the head. A man called Darrell Garner was arrested, but a former Carousel Club dancer and friend of Jack Ruby, Betty Mooney MacDonald, gave him an alibi. Shortly afterward, MacDonald was arrested. Within an hour of her detention, she was found dead in her cell.

Officer J.D. Tippit was buried by his grieving family on November 25, 1963, the same day that Oswald and JFK were buried. Depending on which version you believe, he was the second victim of Oswald or the second victim of the conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

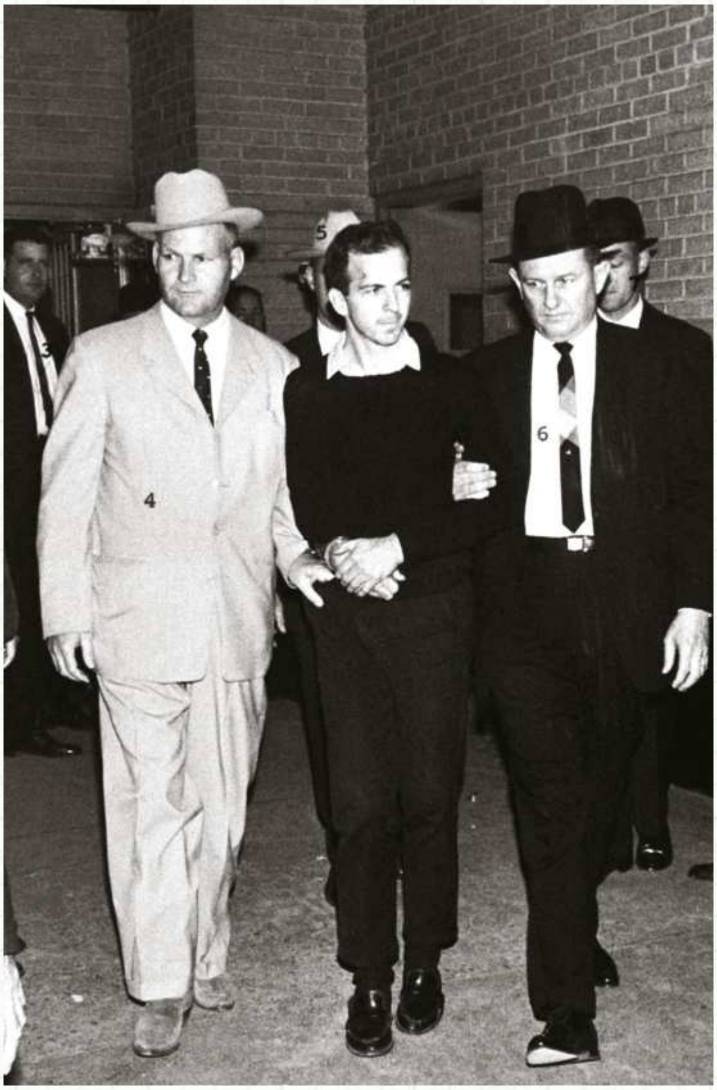
ABOVE The alleged gun and bullets used by Lee Harvey Oswald to kill Patrolman J.D. Tippit. However, far from being convincing proof of his guilt, some conspiriologists believe the bullets actually provide evidence Oswald did not kill Tippit.

BELOW How it happened? Dallas Police re-enact the alleged interaction between Lee Harvey Oswald and Officer Tippit before Tippit was killed. However, some witnesses claim to have seen two men involved in the murder, not just one.

POLICE
46902

The Shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald

The assassination of John F. Kennedy and its aftermath were followed by Americans watching flickering black-and-white live broadcasts from Dallas. Still reeling from the shock of the President's killing, they were not prepared for what they saw next—the brutal murder of the man that they expected to stand trial for the crime, live on television. However, from the moment Lee Harvey Oswald was apprehended for the murder of police officer J.D. Tippit, many things had seemed somewhat odd, somewhat wrong.



The first anomalous event in the apprehending, charging, and brutal death of Lee Harvey Oswald happened just 15 minutes after the shooting. At 12:45pm on Dallas Police radio, dispatcher Gerald Henslee gave out a description of the suspect wanted for killing Kennedy. Despite no one knowing who gave the description to the police inspector J.H. Sawyer and there being no reason to suspect Oswald at that point, the description matched him perfectly.

Within an hour of Oswald being dragged into the Homicide and Robbery Office at 2:02pm, Director of the FBI J. Edgar Hoover had written to his deputies claiming that they had the man who killed the President. At 4:58pm Dallas time, Air Force One touched down in Washington. Journalist Theodore H. White left the plane, reporting that President Johnson had already been briefed on Oswald's identity and that there was no conspiracy.

By 4:58pm, Oswald had not even been charged with Officer Tippit's murder, let alone the President's assassination. He had not been identified by any witnesses, nor fingerprinted. His wife had not been questioned, nor had any of the evidence later used against him—such as the photograph allegedly showing him with a rifle and pistol—been collected by this time.

It is understandable why many conspiracy researchers find this statement of certainty suspicious, especially as soon after his capture, Oswald told reporters in a hallway: "I didn't shoot anyone. They're taking me in because of the fact I lived in the Soviet Union. I'm just a patsy!" Not exactly statements negating a conspiracy.

The police held a midnight press conference. Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade briefed the press on what they knew of Oswald. In detailing his activities, Wade made the mistake of saying he was a member of the CIA-funded pro-Castro group Free Cuba Committee. A voice called out: "Henry, that's the Fair Play for Cuba Committee." The voice belonged to local nightclub owner and known Mafia associate Jack Ruby. None of the many Dallas police officers who knew him seemed to wonder why he was at the press conference or why he was an expert on pro-Castro groups.

As he was dragged away from the press conference, Oswald learnt from one of the reporters that he was being charged with Kennedy's killing. Oswald responded: "I have not been charged with that. In fact, nobody has said that to me yet. The first thing I heard about it was when the newspaper reporters in the hall asked me that question." Someone else called out to the obviously beaten prisoner: "How did you hurt your eye?" Oswald said: "A policeman hit me."

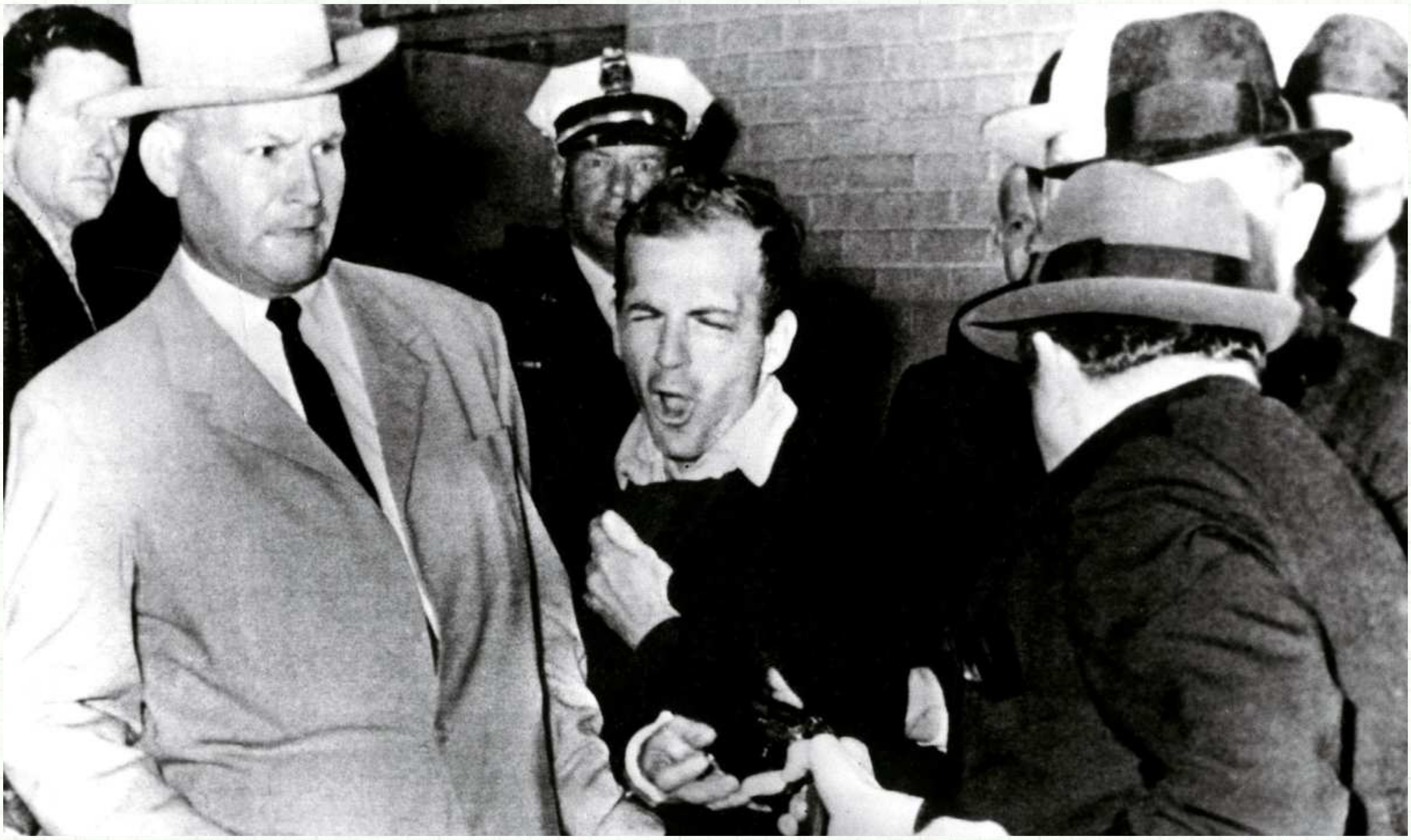
Given the seriousness of the crimes Oswald was accused of, you would expect copious notes of Oswald's hours of interrogation to have been taken by Captain William Fritz of Dallas Homicide and FBI special agents James Bookhout and James Hosty. They told the Warren Commission that there were no notes, and no stenographic or tape recordings of the sessions. It later emerged that this was not the truth. During questioning, Oswald refused to admit to either killing, denied owning a rifle, claimed the rifle photo of him was fake, and claimed he knew nothing about the fake ID in the name A. J. Hidell. He refused all locally based legal representation, holding out for lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union or Communist Party USA counsel John Abt.

On Sunday morning at 11:21am, more than 70 police officers were taking part in Oswald's transfer from the Dallas Police Headquarters to the county

ABOVE Protective custody? Detectives escort Lee Harvey Oswald during his transfer, moments before he was shot. Given the public enmity toward Oswald, security procedures were suspiciously woeful.

OPPOSITE, ABOVE Justice denied. The fatal moment Jack Ruby shot Oswald, when many conspiracy theories were born. His actions denied America the chance to see justice done at a trial. Ruby's motivation and Mafia connection remain core elements of the assassination mystery.

OPPOSITE, BELOW Special FBI Agent James Hosty testifying before the House Judiciary Committee in December 1975 about the destruction of Oswald's note to him.



jail. As the handcuffed prisoner was walked through the basement of the building in front of reporters and television cameras, a short, stocky man pushed out of the crowd, shoved his .38 revolver into Oswald's abdomen, and fired. That man was Jack Ruby.

Oswald was rushed to the Parkland Memorial Hospital—where Kennedy had been declared dead just two days earlier—but doctors could not save him. He was declared dead at 1:07pm.

With that one shot, Jack Ruby had turned all the odd elements of Oswald's detention into something flooded with suspicion. When Ruby shot Oswald, he did more than take a life—he stole America's chance to see justice being done. Live on television, Ruby's murderous act gave birth to a sense of conspiracy and left the millions of people watching asking two questions in bewilderment—who was Jack Ruby and why did he shoot Lee Harvey Oswald?

OSWALD'S SECRET NOTE TO THE FBI

Two weeks before the assassination of JFK, Oswald walked into the Dallas FBI office and left a note for FBI Special Agent James Hosty. A fortnight later, Agent Hosty—who had been assigned to watch Oswald when he arrived in Texas—was with local police detectives questioning him about killing JFK. The existence of Oswald's note and the fact that the FBI removed Hosty's name and address from Oswald's notebook before submitting it to the Warren Commission did not become known until 1975. Hosty was officially reprimanded for misleading the Warren Commission, but maintained that his boss Gordon Shanklin had ordered him to burn Oswald's note in the wake of the assassination. Hosty always claimed that the note contained no more than a warning to him from Oswald to stop bothering his wife.

Jack Ruby

It is not hyperbole to call the assassination of JFK the most notorious murder in American history. Shimmering at the heart of this dark and complex murder mystery are two people—Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby. They are its visible players. If we can understand more of who they were, we may find clues to the conspiracy. Oswald and Ruby may be the only real guides we have to lead us through a shadowed labyrinth.

Before November 1963, Ruby had led a colorful if not distinguished life. Born as Jacob Rubenstein in Chicago in 1911, by the time he reached his early twenties he had been a salesman, a professional boxer, and errand runner for the small-time end of the Chicago Mob. After World War II and now going by the name of Jack Ruby, he moved to Dallas. By the late 1950s, he had opened the Carousel Club there.

The Carousel Club was the epitome of low-level sleaze. Ruby tried to apply a veneer of class to its burlesque and booze, but it was a gravity well for hard drinkers. It attracted a large number of Dallas cops as patrons. Nancy Perrin Rich, who worked at the club, testified to the Warren Commission that Ruby ordered her to give free drinks to cops, stating: "There isn't a cop in Dallas that doesn't know Jack Ruby… they lived in his place."

Despite this, the Commission found no evidence that Ruby entered the basement to kill Oswald with police assistance. However, in 1979 the House Select Committee on Assassinations reported: "The Committee was troubled by unlocked doors along the stairway route and removal of security guards… There is evidence the Dallas Police Department withheld relevant information concerning Ruby's entry."

At his trial for Oswald's murder in 1964, Ruby first pled guilty, claiming he acted to spare Jackie Kennedy the pain of a trial. He then changed his plea to insanity, but was found guilty and sentenced to death. When interviewed by Chief Justice Earl Warren in June 1964, Ruby pleaded to be taken to Washington, saying: "I want to tell the truth and I can't tell it here… my life is in danger." Warren refused.

SAL
EMBER
TAMMI KATHY
TRUE KAY
CAROUSEL
GIRLS BURLESQUE

At the end of 1966, Ruby won the right to a new trial. On January 3, 1967, he died of cancer. Before his death, he claimed to have been injected with cancer. It was not the only conspiratorial statement he made. In his letters from prison, he urged people to read *A Texan Looks at Lyndon* (see The LBJ Conspiracy Theory, page 50,) saying: "It may open your eyes to a lot of things." He also told journalists: "Everything pertaining to what's happening has never come to the surface. The world will never know the true facts of what occurred, my motives. The people who had so much to gain, such an ulterior motive for putting me in the position I'm in, will never let the true facts come above board to the world."

FBI records suggest Ruby was involved in narcotics and had smuggled weapons into Cuba during the 1950s. In 1959, he was personally involved in attempts to free Mafia boss Santo Trafficante from prison in Cuba. While in jail, Ruby had said to a friend: "They're going to find out about Cuba. They're going to find out about the guns, find out about New Orleans, find out about everything." Telephone records show that before the assassination in 1963, Ruby spoke with both Trafficante and New Orleans Mafia boss Carlos Marcello.

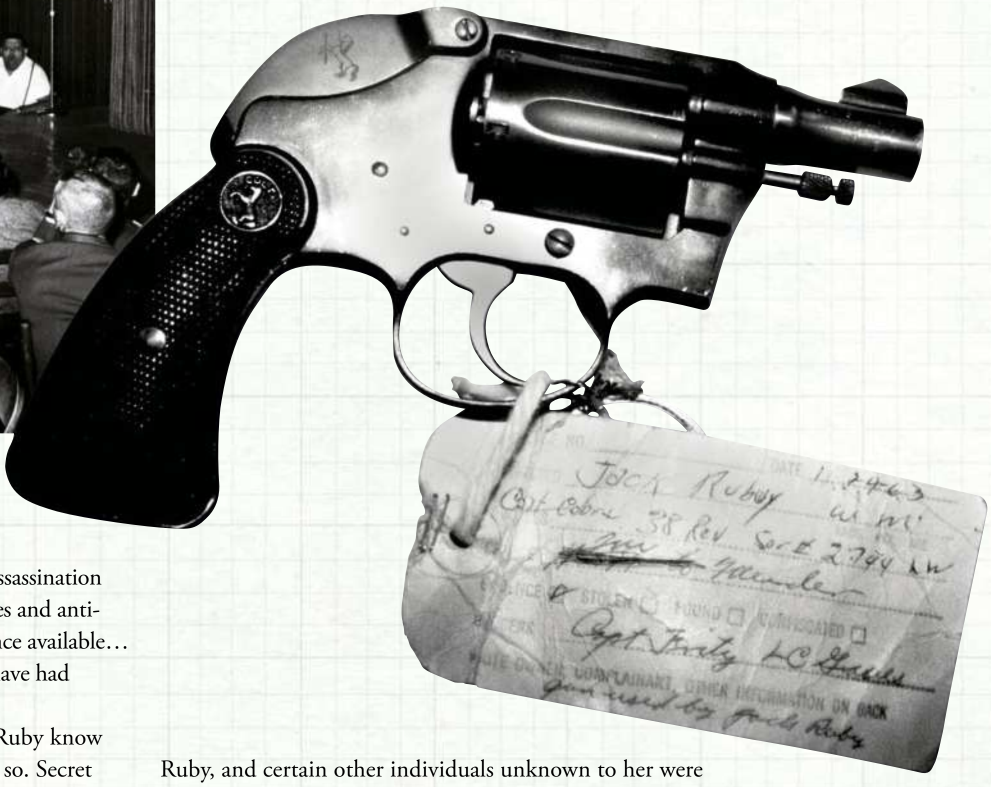
The Warren Commission claimed that Ruby was not "part of any conspiracy" and that there was no "significant link between Ruby and

JACK RUBY & SETH KANTOR – THE MINOR MOBSTER AND THE JOURNALIST

White House correspondent Seth Kantor was a passenger in the motorcade and found himself at Parkland Memorial Hospital in the aftermath of the shooting. Whilst there, Kantor ran into Jacky Ruby, an old acquaintance from his days on the *Dallas Times Herald*. The two spoke and Kantor testified to these facts to the Warren Commission. However, the Commission dismissed Kantor as mistaken. Despite knowing Ruby personally, he must have got it wrong. This was a convenient assumption for the Commission to make, especially as it negated suggestions Ruby was at the hospital planting a pristine bullet on a stretcher. Angered by his dismissal, Kantor went on to investigate Ruby, producing the book *Who Was Jack Ruby?* In 1979, the House Select Committee concluded that Kantor was probably not mistaken on his Parkland encounter with Ruby.

ABOVE Underbelly. Jack Ruby stands outside his club with two of his dancers. Ruby was more a face in the seedy underbelly of Dallas than a major figure in its underworld, but evidence shows he was connected to top-ranking Mafia figures.

OPPOSITE Full of secrets. Jack Ruby walks into a Dallas courtroom for sentencing after being found guilty of Oswald's murder. Although he died before he had a chance to talk in court, at his second trial it became clear Ruby was likely to spill the secrets he had kept during his original conviction.


Jack Ruby
DATE 11-24-63
Colt Cobra 38 Rev Ser# 2744 LW
STOLEN ☐ FOUND ☐ CONFISCATED ☐
Capt Fritz LC Graves
OWNER, COMPLAINANT, OTHER INFORMATION ON BACK
gun used by Jack Ruby

LEFT From burlesque to bullets. Jack Ruby's Carousel Club was the sleazy nexus where Dallas cops rubbed shoulders and shared drinks with elements of the criminal class. Why Ruby went from peddling booze and breasts to firing bullets has to be one of the key concerns of any JFK conspiracy theory.

BELOW Gun control. The gun Jack Ruby used to kill Lee Harvey Oswald, thereby controling forever what the world would learn from the alleged assassin of President Kennedy.

organized crime." However, the Commission ignored a memo from its assistant counsels Burt Griffin and Leon Hubert, who wrote: "The most promising links between Jack Ruby and the assassination of President Kennedy are established through underworld figures and anti-Castro Cubans, and extreme right-wing Americans… on evidence available… Ruby was involved in illegal dealings with Cubans who might have had contact with Oswald."

The key question for many assassination researchers is: did Ruby know Oswald before the assassination? Rose Cheramie had claimed so. Secret Service Agent Roger Warner interviewed one of Ruby's strippers, Karen Bennett Carlin, who initially claimed Oswald visited the Carousel Club. He reported the following: "Mrs. Carlin was highly agitated… She stated to me that she was under the impression that Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, and certain other individuals unknown to her were involved in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy." Robert F. Kennedy certainly believed that Ruby and Oswald were connected in some way, telling aide LaVern Duffy "It's impossible Oswald and Ruby didn't know each other."

CRIMINAL DIST COURT No. 2 J. FRANK WILSON, JUDGE
CRIMINAL DIST COURT No. 3 HENRY KING, JUDGE

A Country Reacts...
an Investigation Is Commissioned

Shock and grief can warp our lives like no other forces. All the usual assumptions of solidity and continuance are suspended. We enter an alien, frightening world where certainty has been ripped from us.

ABOVE United States of Grief. Jacqueline and Caroline Kennedy kneel beside President John F. Kennedy's flag-draped coffin as he lies in state at the Capitol Rotunda, Washington, DC.

LEFT The last salute. JFK's son, John Kennedy Jr., salutes as his father's coffin passes, while Edward Kennedy, Jackie Kennedy, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and Caroline Kennedy watch the grim funeral procession.

The six seconds that killed President Kennedy caused a manifestation of shock and grief across the U.S. unlike anything since the assassination of Abraham Lincoln nearly a century before. However, Lincoln's murder was not an event of the television age. The modern mass media allowed America to observe and commune in collective grief in a way no nation had experienced before.

In the first minutes, as the news interrupted normal programing—and normal life—shock rolled across the nation. Traffic halted and drivers stopped in disbelief as word spread from car to car like contagion. Schools closed. People congregated in bars to watch the news together. They went to churches and prayed. Both women and men were seen openly weeping in the street. By the evening, more than 75 percent of the nation was collectively watching the Dallas horror story unfold in black and white.

There was no pre-arranged plan for a State funeral for a slain president. Despite her grief or possibly because of it, Jackie Kennedy threw herself into arranging one. Modeling her husband's funeral on that of Lincoln, JFK's body was first put in repose in the East Room of the White House. Still in the bloodstained clothes she had refused to change, Mrs. Kennedy finally left her husband's body with a Marine honor guard and two Catholic priests. Newly created President Johnson came to pay his respects, as did former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower.

On the Sunday afternoon, 300,000 people lined the streets to watch a horse-drawn caisson take Kennedy to lie in state below the Capitol Rotunda. Johnson issued Presidential Proclamation 3561, declaring Monday a national day of mourning. Foreign leaders and dignitaries flew to Washington. When the caisson took Kennedy on his final journey to Arlington National Cemetery, the world was watching.

Across the globe, people mourned. U.S. intelligence recorded that even in the Soviet Union, church bells tolled for Kennedy. However, as the tributes were given in almost every nation, as JFK's former enemies at home rushed to praise him, questions began to be asked. How? Why? One lone gunman?

In the Soviet Union, the CIA discovered the Politburo (the Communist executive body) believed the assassination was the result of "an ultra-right coup." They feared it presaged an attack on Cuba or East Germany. But for President Johnson, it was questions in America that gave him headaches.

Johnson originally wanted the Texas authorities to hold an enquiry, but fear of public reaction led him to lean on the Dallas Police, via the FBI, to stop them referring to Oswald as a Marxist. With Senator James Eastland threatening to investigate as well as several congressmen and senators calling for a public enquiry, LBJ panicked, curtailing open scrutiny.

On November 24, J. Edgar Hoover stated in a memo to LBJ's aide Walter Jenkins: "The thing I am concerned about, and so is Mr. Katzenbach [Deputy Attorney General], is having something issued so we can convince the public Oswald is the real assassin." Katzenbach replied on November 25: "Speculation about Oswald's motivations ought to cut off, and we should have some basis for rebutting the thought it was a Communist or a right-wing conspiracy."

LBJ's solution was to form the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy on November 27. It became known as the Warren Commission, after its chairman, Chief Justice Earl Warren. LBJ had to cajole Warren into the assignment, reminding him of his "patriotic duty." Commission member Senator Richard Russell only agreed to participate after LBJ bullied him and warned him of direct Soviet/Cuban threats to the U.S. if the Commission was unable to convince the public there was no conspiracy. Other members of the seven-man committee such as Representative Gerald Ford, former President of the World Bank John J. McCloy, and former head of the CIA Allen Dulles, needed no cajoling.

Years later, McCloy would be accused of having been at a meeting in Texas with LBJ, J. Edgar Hoover, and oil barons such as H.L. Hunt and Clint Murchison Sr. when they discussed getting rid of Kennedy. Dulles had been fired as CIA chief for lying to Kennedy over the Bay of Pigs. His deputy and friend Charles P. Cabell was fired at the same time. His brother Earle Cabell was Mayor of Dallas on the day of the assassination. To conspiriologists, with some members of the Commission possibly linked to any conspiracy, there was never any doubt what the result of its investigation would be.

JAMES EASTLAND'S COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY

One of the great ironies of the Warren Commission is that it worked so hard to prove there was no conspiracy, yet it had partly come into being because of one politician who believed Kennedy's death was a plot. Senator James Eastland, a Democrat from Mississippi, was a virulent proponent of racial segregation and a rabid anti-communist. President Johnson said of him: "Jim Eastland could be standing right in the middle of the worst Mississippi flood ever, and he'd say the niggers caused it, helped out by the Communists." Eastland's hunch was that Oswald's communist connections meant there was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy. As Chairman of the Internal Security Subcommittee, Eastland had the Washington clout to cause all sorts of problems if his threats to have his committee investigate had materialized, so he had to be appeased.

The Warren Commission and its Inconvenient and Missing Witnesses

On November 23, 1963, the streets of Dallas were pulsing, crowded with people. However, Dealey Plaza was toward the end of the President's route. There were fewer people. Fewer witnesses. It was almost as if someone had designed the fateful moments of history about to unfold with as few observers as possible.

ABOVE Duck and cover. The sheltering love of Bill and Gayle Newman, who threw themselves down when they thought they heard shots coming from behind them on the grassy knoll, is evident in this shot. However, the Warren Commission ignored their testimony on the direction of the shots they heard.

However, there were some eyes on this nexus point in history, dozens who saw the brutal disruption of order and witnessed the assassination. Even more saw something of its aftermath as people surged up the grassy knoll and police began hunting for possible shooters.

Many more had seen some element leading up to the murder or had known key people such as Oswald or Ruby. As the Warren Commission found out, one thing the crime of the twentieth century did not lack was witnesses. The problem for the Commission was that many of them were saying inconvenient things. In fact, if the evidence of some witnesses was to be believed, there is absolutely no way the Commission's conclusion that Oswald acted alone was sustainable.

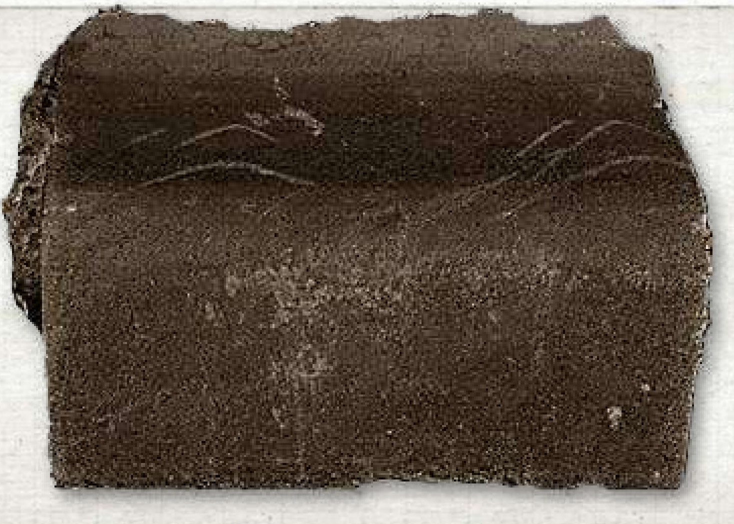
As government memos show, the Warren Commission was partly created to ensure that the public was "satisfied Oswald was the assassin; that he did not have confederates who are still at large." This may explain why its approach to witnesses seemed to be highly selective. As soon as its report was printed, allegations emerged that it had rewritten witness testimony, bullied witnesses, and ignored witnesses offering evidence suggestive of any conspiracy.

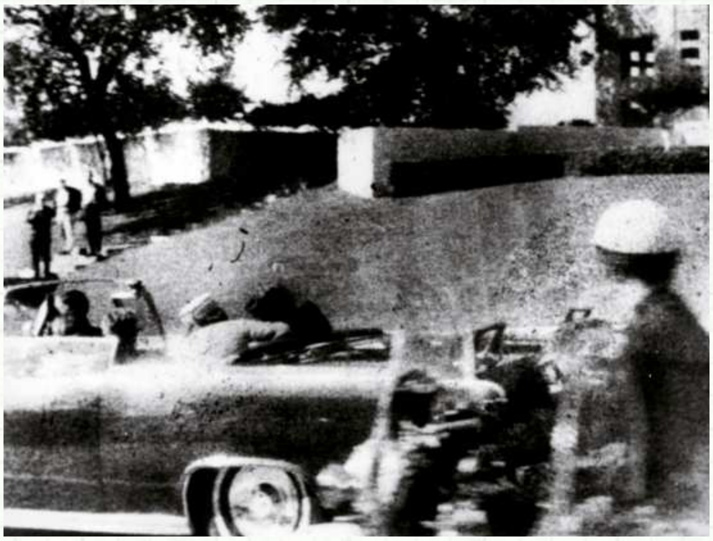
The Commission did not interview obvious witnesses such as Mary Moorman, who took one of the best-positioned photographs of the assassination and who heard more than three shots. The Commission never contacted Bill and Gayle Newman, who watched the motorcade with their children from the grassy knoll's northern edge. This might have been because they were so convinced shots were coming from behind them that they flung their children down and fell on top of them.

Witnesses complained of only being able to tell the Commission what it wanted to hear. Phillip Willis, who thought there was a grassy knoll shooter, was not questioned on his opinion that the shot which "took the president's skull off came from the right front." Some witnesses complained of evidence tampering. Orville Nix, who initially believed shots came from the grassy knoll, claimed the film he took that day was not identical to the one he

THE BULLET THAT MISSED

Traffic generated by JFK's motorcade caused James Tague to stop his car close to the edge of the Triple Underpass. Suddenly he heard a shot, then another. As he heard a third shot, something stung him on the face. He thought the shots came from the knoll. After the shooting, Detective Buddy Walthers saw blood on Tague's cheek where debris had fired up after a bullet hit the kerb. The scarred kerb and Tague's evidence led the Commission to conclude that one of Oswald's shots had missed, leading to the "magic bullet" theory, that one bullet caused JFK's neck wound and all the wounds to Connally before emerging almost pristine. Forensic analysis showed that the kerb had been hit by a bullet with no copper, unlike the bullets allegedly fired by Oswald. The FBI later destroyed this evidence. The scarred stone was patched with foreign material before being placed in the National Archives—no authorization was ever given for this.





ABOVE Cover-up. Even physical evidence such as the physically scarred kerb proving there was a shot that missed has been tampered with. The bullet damage to the kerb was mysteriously covered up by foreign material before it was sent to the National Archives.

LEFT Polaroid moment. Mary Moorman's fifth Polaroid photograph taken during the assassination. Despite being one of the best-placed witnesses, as her photos show, she was not called to give testimony to the Warren Commission.

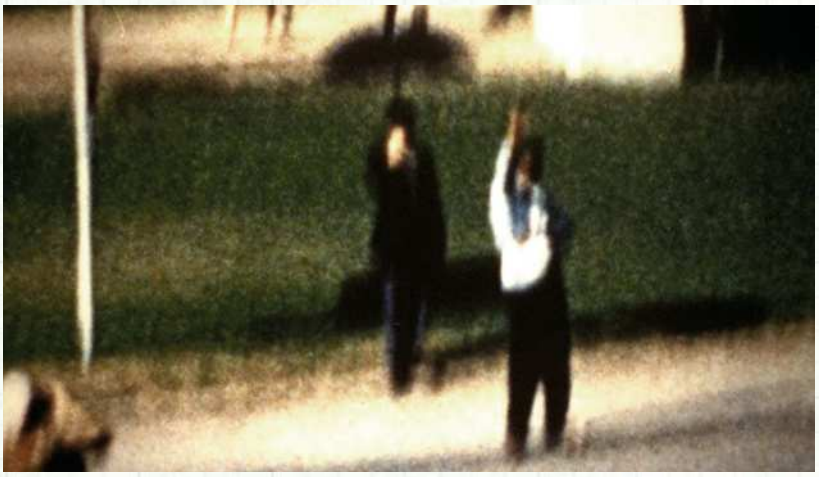
received back from the FBI. Witness Jean Hill even claimed her recorded evidence to the Commission was fabricated.

Some witnesses claimed they were intimidated. Marina Oswald, held by the Secret Service until her testimony to the Commission, was threatened with losing her children. Richard Carr saw a heavy-set man with horn-rimmed glasses and a tan sports coat on the sixth floor of the depository. After the shooting he followed the man until he was picked up by a Nash stationwagon. An FBI agent told Carr: "If you didn't see Lee Harvey Oswald in the Depository with a rifle, you didn't see it." Carr received threatening phone calls telling him to leave Texas. He found dynamite taped to his car ignition. Carr was not called by the Warren Commission, but when he testified at the trial of Clay Shaw, who was charged as being involved in a conspiracy to kill JFK, a gunman attempted to kill him.

The Warren Commission was unable to question some of the most important eyes on history, as the FBI was not able to trace them. Now known to researchers as "Babushka Lady" thanks to her headscarf, one woman is visible in photographs filming events as she stands between Elm and Main Street. In 1970, Beverly Oliver, a former Carousel Club burlesque artist, claimed she was Babushka Lady. Her story is not generally believed and the true identity of the covered woman and why she and the images she took were never found remains a mystery.

A man who unfurled his umbrella as the motorcade approached is seen in several photographs. The fact that no umbrella was needed that day has led conspiriologists to speculate that "Umbrella Man" was giving a signal to assassins. In 1978, Louie Witt claimed he had used the umbrella as a way of heckling JFK. Witt's story is flawed and many doubt he was Umbrella Man. No one has come forward to claim to be the "Dark-Complected Man" seen with Umbrella Man, and who in some frames appears to be using a walkie-talkie and giving a salute.

Some of the evidence most dissonant to the Commission's conclusions comes from one of its most high-profile witnesses—Governor John Connally. He stated, "I'll never change my opinion: the first bullet hit the President, I was hit by the second bullet, the third bullet did not hit me, but hit the President." As the Commission concluded one bullet had missed the car completely and their timings meant Oswald could not have fired four shots, this implied there had to be a second shooter.



RIGHT Mystery men. Are "Umbrella Man" and "Dark-Complected Man" innocent bystanders to history or signaling for the shooting to begin? In later years, Louie Witt claimed to be holding the umbrella in this photo, but no one has come forward to admit to being the man making the strange hand gesture.

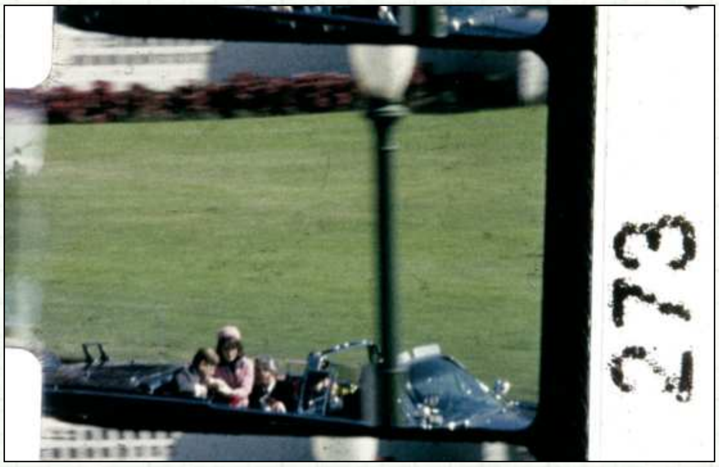
The Zapruder Film

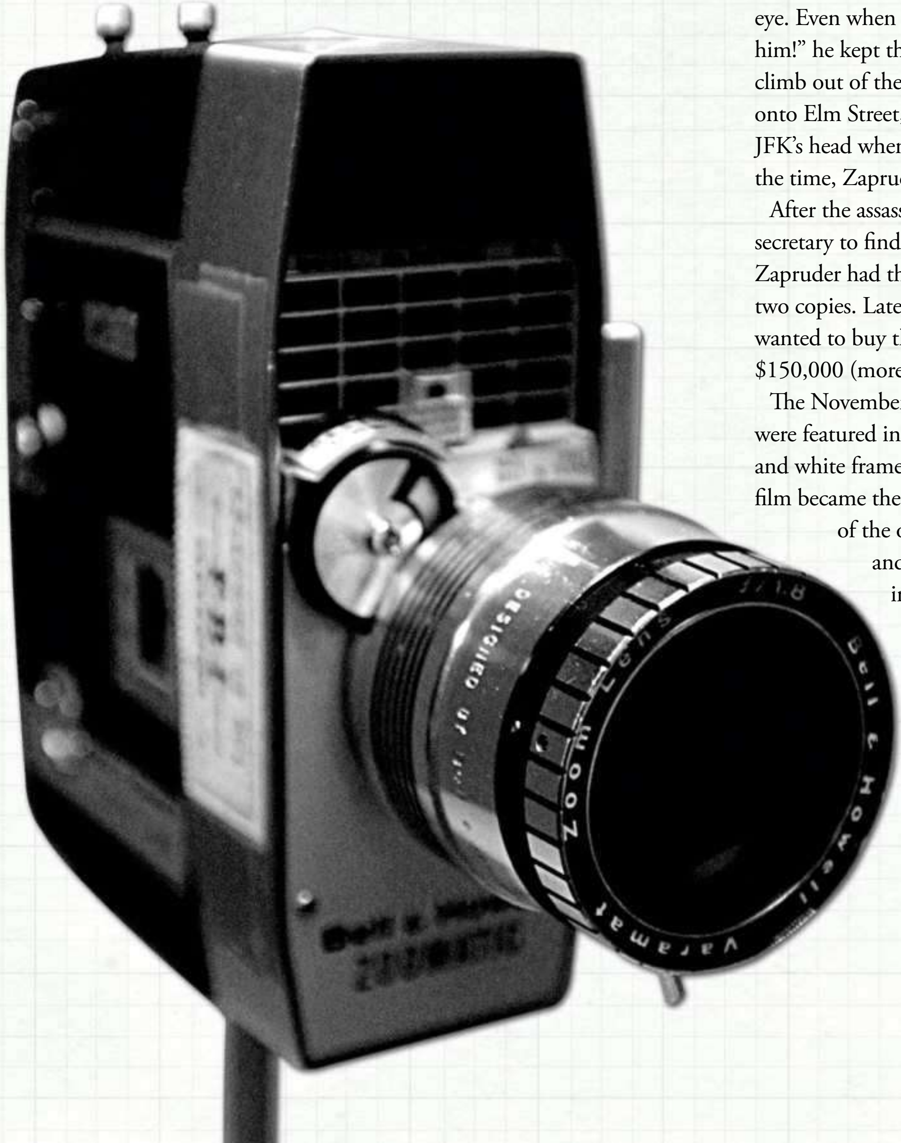
The Zapruder film of 486 frames totaling 26.6 seconds is possibly the most important and debated amateur movie in history. Despite the contentious life of the film since November 22, 1963, what was captured on Kodachrome II 8mm color is regarded as the most complete visual record of the assassination of JFK.

It was an essential part of the evidence considered by the Warren Commission. More than that, its images dominate how we remember the assassination. Our visual view of that fateful day comes largely from the point of view of Zapruder's camera.

Abraham Zapruder was a 58-year-old businessman when the film he shot turned his surname into one synonymous with the killing of Kennedy. Of Russian-Jewish extraction, in 1954 Zapruder founded a fashion company that he headquartered in the Dal-Tex building across the street from the Texas School Book Depository.

Zapruder had not originally planned to film the President's motorcade, but his secretary Lillian Rogers persuaded him to make a 14-mile round trip home to collect his top-of-the-line Bell & Howell Zoomatic camera. Half an hour before the motorcade arrived, he went down into Dealey Plaza with his receptionist Marilyn Sitzman to find a spot from which to film. Zapruder picked a concrete plinth on Elm Street next to the grassy knoll and close to the Triple Underpass.





Unlike others that day, when the shots happened, he kept the camera to his eye. Even when Zapruder was screaming: "They've killed him! They've killed him!" he kept the camera rolling, capturing Jackie Kennedy's attempts to climb out of the vehicle. His film shows the presidential limousine turning onto Elm Street, following it until the underpass. He caught the fatal shot to JFK's head when the limousine was almost in front of and just below him. At the time, Zapruder thought the shots came from behind him.

After the assassination, Zapruder went back to his office and sent his secretary to find a Secret Service agent. By 6:30pm on November 22, Zapruder had the original film and one copy, while the Secret Service had two copies. Later that night, Zapruder was contacted by *Life* magazine, which wanted to buy the film. The next day, all rights to the film were sold for $150,000 (more than $1 million in current terms).

The November 29 issue of *Life* used 30 frames of the film. Other frames were featured in later editions, but the next major use of the film was as black and white frames for the Warren Commission—Exhibit 885. The Zapruder film became the backbone around which the Commission had to fit much of the other evidence. However, the frames used were selective and contained errors made while being copied. Investigators' inability to view and reproduce the full film caused consternation and suspicion.

The first public showing of the film took place when it was subpoenaed by Jim Garrison and shown as part of Clay Shaw's trial in 1969. It was not until 1975, when ABC's *Good Night America* broadcast the film, that the

ABOVE Shooting down the "magic bullet" theory. Frame 273 of Zapruder's film appears to show an unharmed Governor Connally turning in concern toward the President. If that is correct, it destroys the timings for the Warren Commission's single bullet theory.

LEFT Capturing history. The Bell & Howell Zoomatic camera used by Abraham Zapruder to capture the brutal unfolding of history. The camera is now kept at the U.S. National Archives.

American public got to see it. When they did, there was shock and outrage. Many viewed its capture of Kennedy's head moving back and to the left as confirmation that the fatal shot was not fired from the T.S.B.D. The huge uproar caused by seeing the Zapruder film played a big role in the establishing of the House Select Committee on Assassinations investigation in 1976.

Even though the film is now in the public archive, it remains controversial. Many researchers do not accept it as authentic. While the majority do believe it to be genuine, its completeness is still disputed. Experts Max Holland and Johann Rush made a careful study of the film and concluded that there was a significant pause between frame 132 and 133. If this is right, it means a possible first shot was missed out. Other researchers and scientific experts have concluded frames have been removed.

Not only is Zapruder's film subject to allegation after allegation, but Abraham Zapruder himself became the subject of conspiracy theories. After his death in 1970, anti-Semitic theories proclaiming him a "32nd degree Master Mason" and member of a "pro-Jewish CIA cabal linked to the Dallas Council on World Affairs" began to circulate. No hard evidence was offered for these claims.

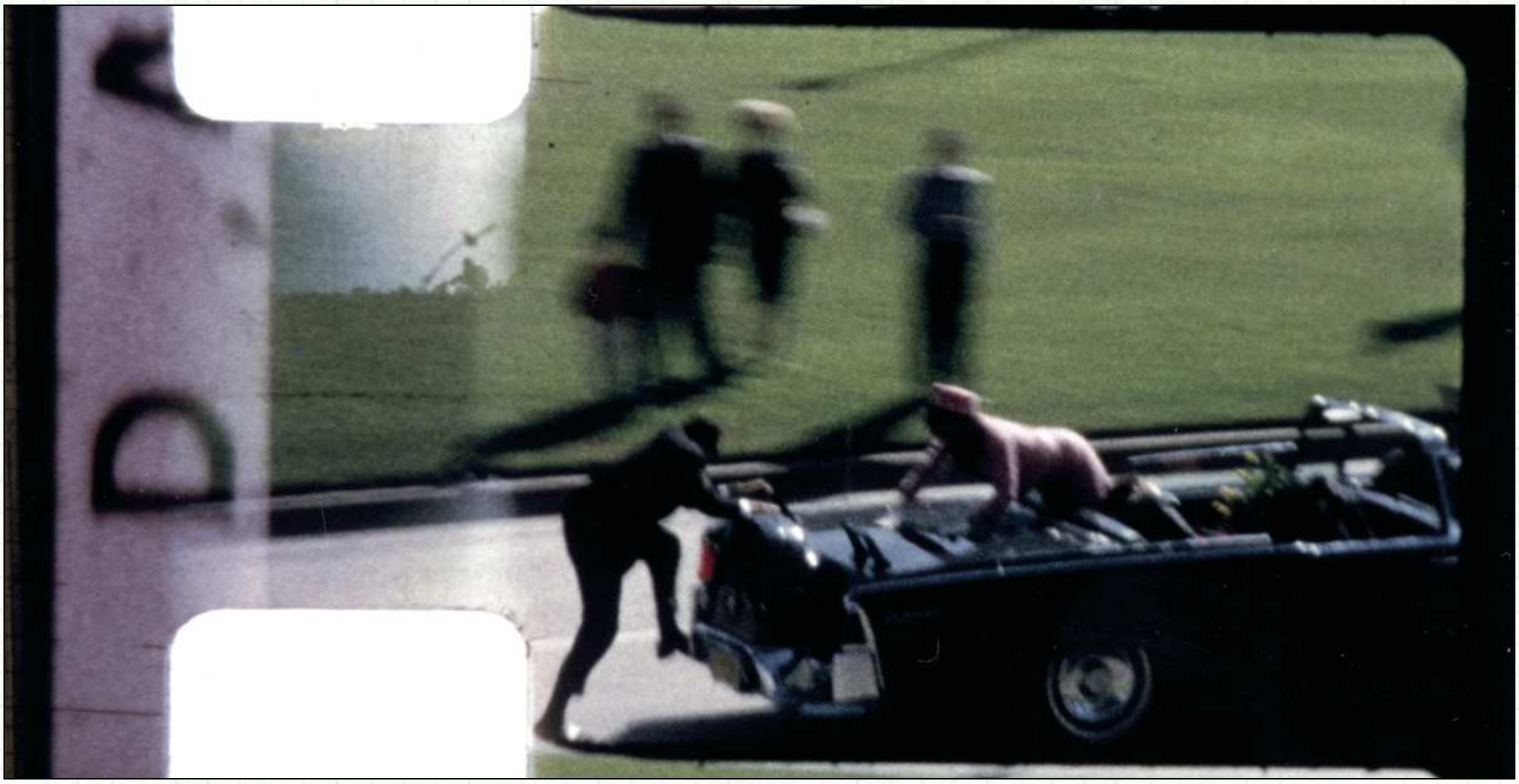
However, researcher Bruce Campbell Adamson began to investigate Zapruder's background. He uncovered the curious coincidence that before 1954, Zapruder worked at fashion company Nardis when it also employed the mother of LBJ's secretary Marie Fehmer, as well as Jeanne LeGon, future wife of Oswald's friend and CIA asset George de Mohrenschildt. Whether that makes Zapruder anything other than a man who just happened to point his camera at history is entirely open to interpretation.

ABOVE RIGHT Life exploded, life extinguished. The infamous pink explosion captured in frame 313 was originally suppressed at the express wish of Abraham Zapruder.

BELOW Defining recollection. The blurs in time forever frozen by the lens of Zapruder have defined the images of the assassination we all hold in our heads. However, they also raise many questions for which there are no definite answers. Why is Jackie crawling out of the car? Escape? To pick up a fragment of her husband's skull?

ZAPRUDER'S NIGHTMARE

On the night of November 22, Abraham Zapruder had the first of many assassination-related nightmares. In it, he found himself wandering in New York's Times Square, a place screaming with neon and advertising. He came to a newspaper booth whose signs read: "SEE THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD EXPLODE!" When he woke, Zapruder felt chastened and worried. He still went ahead with the sale of the rights of his film, but made two key decisions. The first was to give $25,000 (more than $175,000 in 2012 terms) from the sale directly to the widow and grieving family of slain Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit. The other was to stipulate as a condition of sale that *Life* could not print frame 313 in the hope of sparing others the horror he had experienced.



The Warren Report Findings

On September 24, 1964, less than a year after it had been established, the Warren Commission delivered its 888-page final report to President Johnson. Three days later it was made public. Its conclusions were unambiguous—it found that Oswald acted alone and that neither he nor Jack Ruby was "part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign, to assassinate President Kennedy."

ABOVE The great and the good? The members of the Warren Commission (L–R): Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R, Mich.); Rep. Hale Boggs (D, Ala.); Sen. Richard B. Russell (D, Ga.); Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, Chairman; Sen. John S. Cooper (R, Ky.); global banker John J. McCloy; former head of the CIA Allen W. Dulles; J. Lee Rankin, Chief Counsel.

The report also found that Oswald killed Tippit, and concluded that at the assassination "there were three shots fired" and "the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Governor Connally's wounds." It determined there was "no evidence of conspiracy, subversion, or disloyalty to the U.S. Government by any Federal, State, or local official."

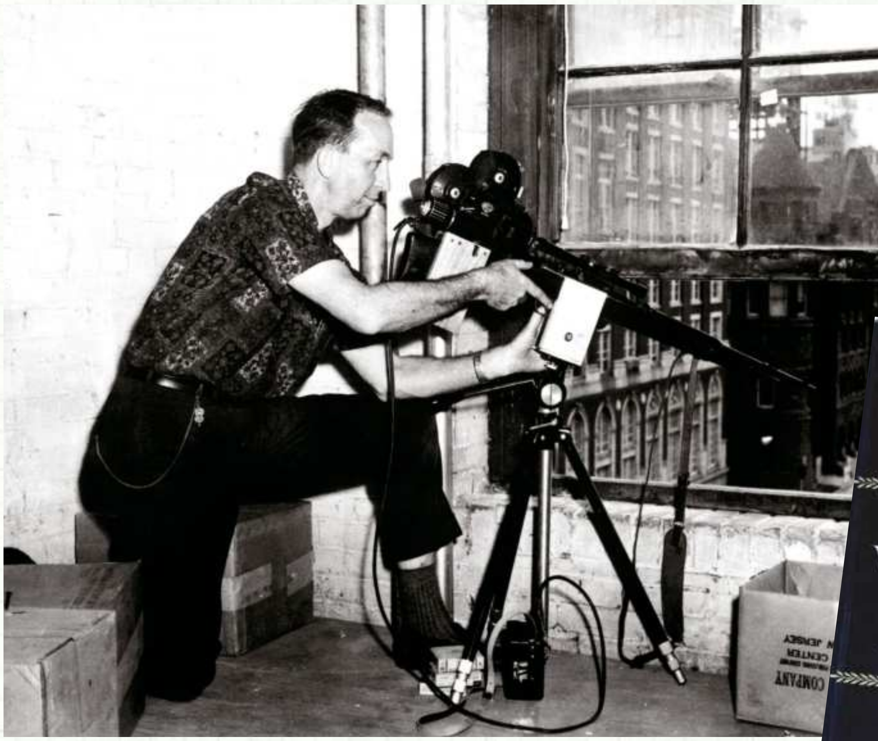
Right from the start, some Commission members such as Chief Justice Earl Warren and Senator Richard Russell, both of whom had been bullied into taking part, were worried that the Commission would end up just causing more controversy about the killing. However, Allen Dulles, Commission member and former CIA Director sacked by JFK, dismissed such concerns. His view was: "Nobody reads. Don't believe people read in this country. There will be a few professors… the public will read very little." Ultimately, Warren and Russell were proved right.

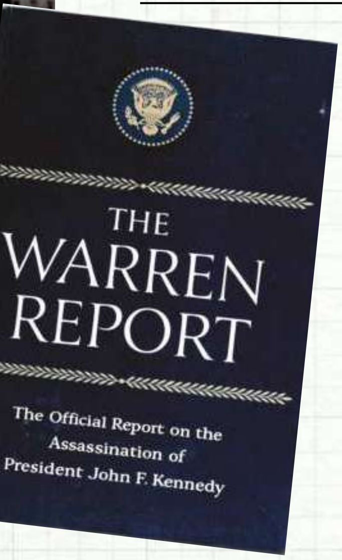
Even before publication of its finding, the Warren Commission was under attack. Lawyer and activist Mark Lane was one of the first to challenge the Commission. He asked it to let him represent the interests of Lee Harvey Oswald. They refused, appointing Walter E. Craig. Unfortunately for Oswald's interests, Craig represented them by not attending hearings, not cross-examining any witnesses, and not naming witnesses of his own.

While the Commission was sitting, Lane published an article detailing discrepancies in witness testimony, the failure of the paraffin test to prove Oswald had fired a gun, and testimony from doctors at Parkland Memorial Hospital suggesting bullets had hit Kennedy from the front. In the United Kingdom, the article led to the formation of a Who Killed Kennedy Committee. Its members included Members of Parliament, historians, and Nobel Prize-winner Bertrand Russell.

In 1964, Bertrand Russell published a stinging attack on the Commission's conclusion entitled *16 Questions on the Assassination*. In it Russell stated: "The official version has been so riddled with contradictions it has been rewritten no less than three times. Blatant fabrications have received widespread coverage by the mass media, but denials of these same lies have gone unpublished. Photographs, evidence and affidavits have been doctored out of recognition. Some of the most important aspects of the case against Lee Harvey Oswald have been completely blacked out. Meanwhile, the F.B.I., the police and the Secret Service have tried to silence key witnesses or instruct them what evidence to give. Others involved have disappeared or died in extraordinary circumstances."

Among Bertrand Russell's 16 questions were: "Why were all the members of the Warren Commission closely connected with the U.S. Government? If, as we are told, Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin, where is the issue of national security? If the Government is so certain of its case, why has it conducted all its inquiries in the strictest secrecy? Why was the President's route changed at the last minute to take him past Oswald's place of work?





LEFT The re-enactments carried out for the Warren Commission using the alleged murder weapon, a 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano, to try to show that Oswald could have acted alone were highly flawed and have never convinced conspiriologists. This one, on September 27, 1964, has the window open wider than the 15 inches it was on the day and the FBI have cut down a tree that would have blocked Oswald's view.

BELOW "Nobody reads." Allen Dulles's comment failed to be prophetic, even if only 1,000 sets of the full evidence were initially published.

BOTTOM Warren Commissioner Representative Hale Boggs expressed concerns and doubt about the lone gunman theory even while a member of the official investigation.

Why has the medical evidence concerning the President's death been altered out of recognition?"

Attacks on the findings of the Warren Commission did not stop there. In 1966 two groundbreaking books were published attacking the Warren Commission conclusions. These were Mark Lane's *Rush to Judgement,* which went onto the bestseller list, and *Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth* by investigative journalist Edward Jay Epstein. Both books destabilized any confidence in the idea of Oswald being a lone gunman. These books, plus the pioneering work of other researchers, put before the public evidence and key questions that the Warren Commission had completely failed to address.

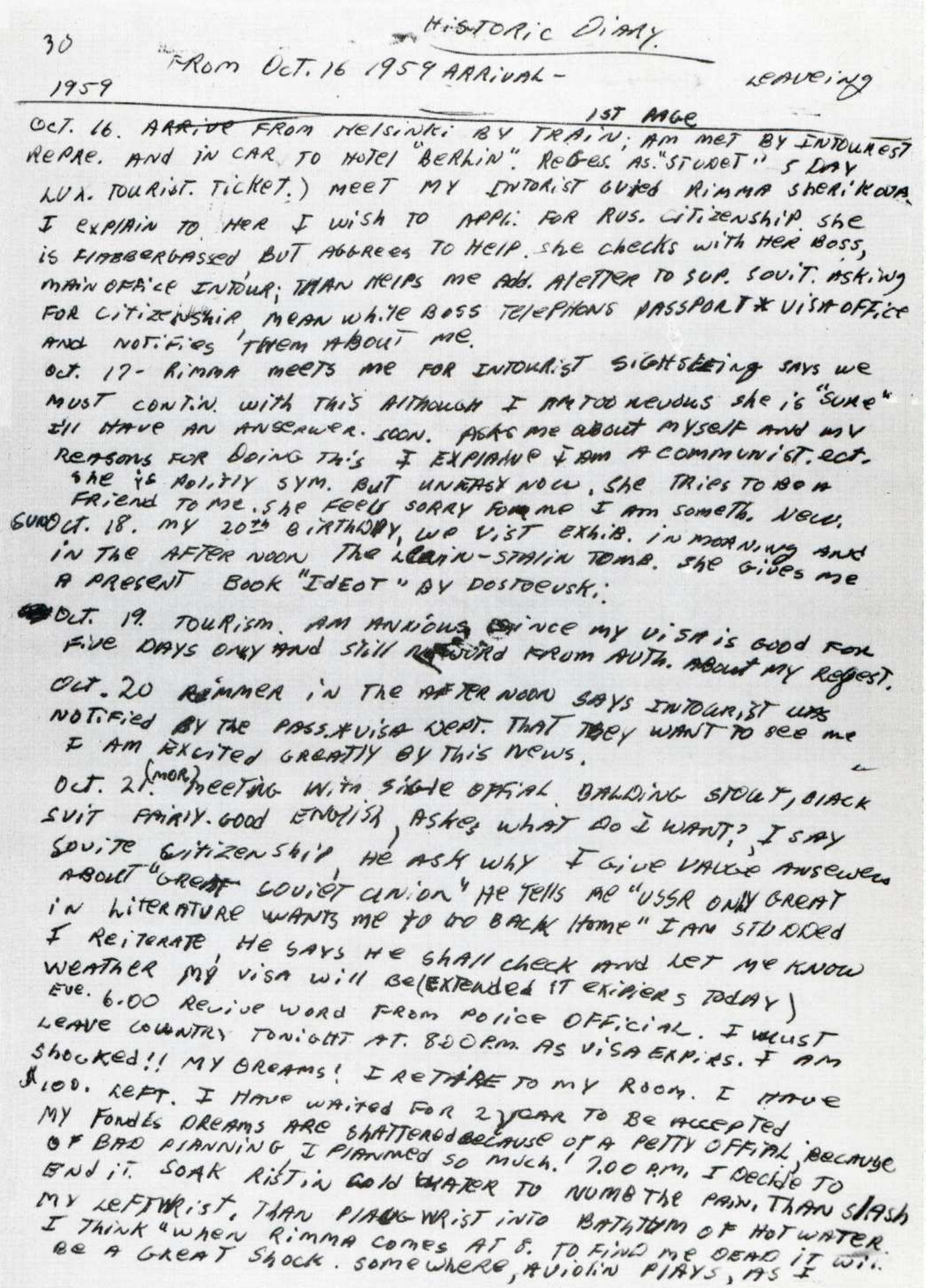
The authority of the Warren Commission conclusions was further damaged in the public eye by the Clay Shaw trial in 1969, but worse was to come. Commission member Thomas Hale Boggs had only reluctantly signed off the report, believing J. Edgar Hoover had lied about the FBI's relationship with Oswald. Boggs had always dissented on the single bullet theory and in 1972 was telling friends in Washington of his growing concerns about the assassination.

On October 16, 1972, the plane on which Hale Boggs and fellow Representative Nick Begich were traveling disappeared during its flight across Alaska. Neither the plane nor any bodies were ever found. The *Los Angeles Star* reported that at the time of his death "Boggs had startling revelations on Watergate and the assassination of President Kennedy." Reports such as this, hinting at a grand conspiracy, showed more than anything how badly the findings of the Warren Commission had failed to convince the public that Oswald had acted alone.

DOUBTING COMMISSIONERS

The alleged quip to Hale Boggs from Allen Dulles about releasing evidence—"Go ahead and print it, nobody will read it anyway"—was a strong possibility, as originally only 1,000 copies of the Commission's report were published. There was not even an index to the 15 volumes; it had to be created by conspiracy researchers. Within a decade of the report being released, four out of the seven members of the Commission—a majority—expressed doubt on its conclusions. Commission member Richard Russell eventually said: "No one man could have done the known shooting." Even the once-steadfast defender of the Commission's conclusions, member and future President Gerald Ford, eventually admitted that the CIA had hidden and destroyed information that "can easily be misinterpreted as collusion in JFK's assassination."

ITEM 1: OSWALD'S DIARY



30 Historic Diary.
"From Oct. 16 1959 Arrival — Leaveing
1959
1st page

Oct. 16. ~~Arrive~~ From Helsinki by train; am met by Intourest
Repre. and in car to Hotel "Berlin". Reges. as "studet" 5 day
Lux. tourist. ticket.) meet my Intorist guied Rimma Sherikova.
I explain to her I wish to appli. for Rus. citizenship. she
is flabbergassed but aggrees to help. she checks with her boss,
main office Intour; than helps me add. aletter to Sup. Souit. asking
for citizenship, meanwhile boss telephons passport * visa office
and notifies them about me.

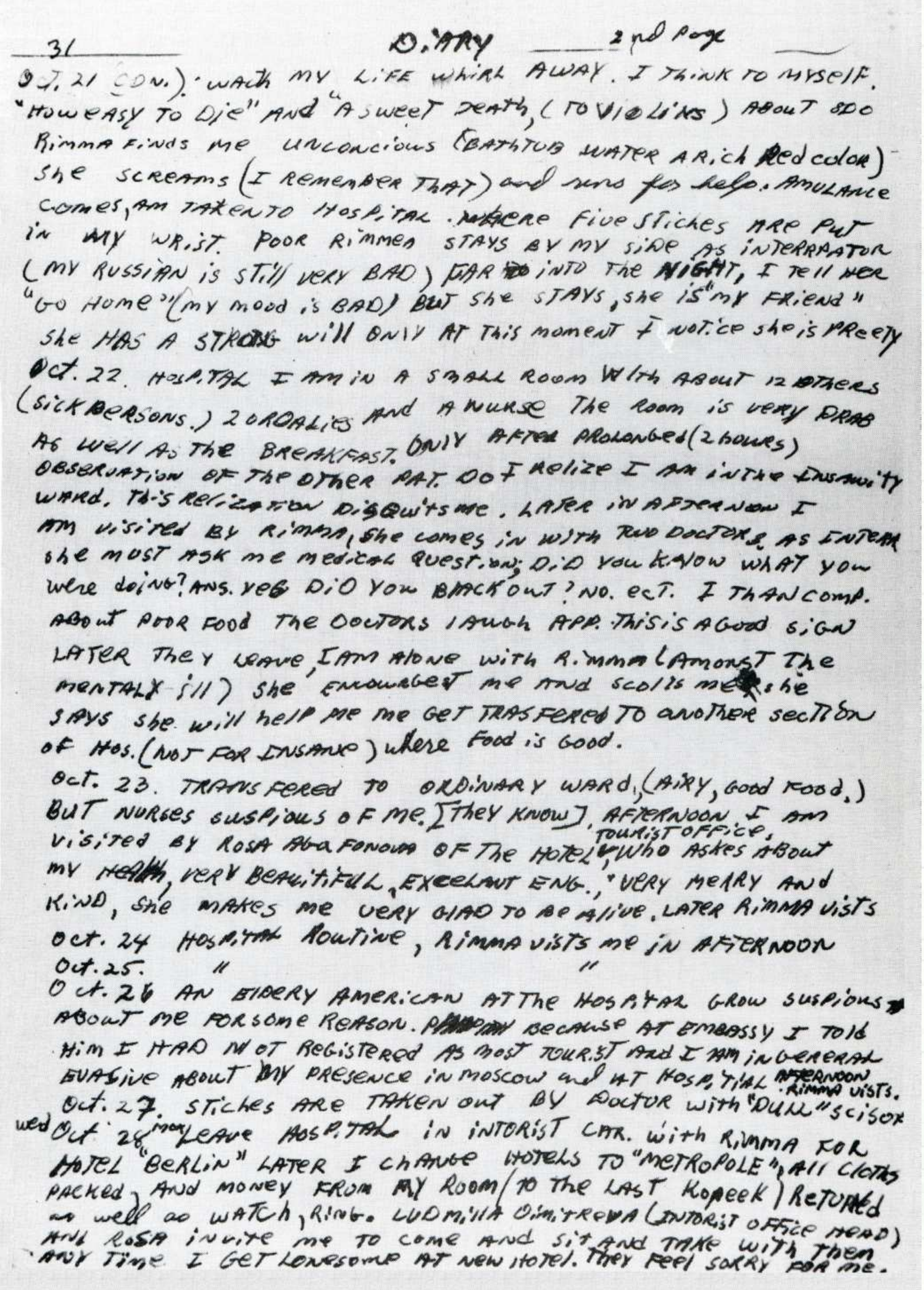
Oct. 17 - Rimma meets me for Intourist sightseeing says we
must contin. with this although I am too nevous she is "sure"
I'll have an anserwer. soon. Asks me about myself and my
reasons for doing this I explaine I am a communist, ect.
she is politly sym. but uneasy now, she tries to be a
friend to me. she feels sorry for me I am someth. new.

Sun Oct. 18. my 20th birthday, we vist exhib. in morning and
in the after noon The Lenin-Stalin tomb. she gives me
a present Book "Ideot" by Dostoevski.

Oct. 19. Tourism. Am anxious since my visa is good for
five days only and still no word from auth. about my reqest.

Oct. 20 Rimmer in the afternoon says Intourist was
notified by the pass. * visa dept. that they want to see me
I am excited greatly by this news.

Oct. 21. (mor) meeting with single offial. balding stout, black
suit fairly good English, askes what do I want?, I say
Souite citizenship, he ask why I give vauge answers
about "Great Soviet Union" He tells me "USSR only great
in literature wants me to go back home" I am stunned
I reiterate, he says he shall check and let me know
weather my visa will be (extended it exipiers today)
Eve. 6.00 Recive word from police official. I must
leave country tonight at. 8.00 P.M. as visa expirs. I am
shocked!! My dreams! I retire to my room. I have
$100. left. I have waited for 2 year to be accepted
My fondes dreams are shattered because of a petty offial, because
of bad planning I planned so much! 7.00 P.M. I decide to
end it. Soak rist in cold water to numb the pain, Than slash
my leftwrist, Than plage wrist into bathtum of hot water.
I think "when Rimma comes at 8. to find me dead it wil
be a great shock. somewhere, a violin plays, as I



31 Diary 2nd Page

Oct. 21 (con.) watch my life whirl away. I think to myself.
"How easy to Die" and "A sweet death, (to violins) about 8:00
Rimma finds me unconcious (bathtub water a rich red color)
she screams (I remember that) and runs for help. Amulance
comes, am taken to hospital. where five stiches are put
in my wrist. Poor Rimmea stays by my side as interrpator
(my Russian is still very bad) far ~~to~~ into the night, I tell her
"Go home" (my mood is bad) but she stays, she is "my friend"
she has a strong will only at this moment I notice she is preety

Oct. 22. Hospital I am in a small room with about 12 others
(sick persons.) 2 ordalies and a nurse the room is very drab
as well as the breakfast. Only after prolonged (2 hours)
observation of the other pat. do I relize I am in the insanity
ward. This relization disquits me. Later in afternoon I
am visited by Rimma, she comes in with two doctors, as interp.
she must ask me medical question; Did you know what you
were doing? Ans. yes Did you black out? No. ect. I than comp.
about poor food the doctors laugh app. this is a good sign
later they leave, I am alone with Rimma (amongst the
mentally ill) she encowaget me and scolts me. she
says she will help me me get trasfered to another section
of Hos. (not for insane) where food is good.

Oct. 23. Transfered to ordinary ward, (airy, good food.)
but nurses suspiciows of me. [they know]. afternoon I am
visited by Rosa Agafonova of the hotel tourist office, who askes about
my health, very beautifull, excelant Eng., very merry and
kind, she makes me very glad to be alive. Later Rimma vists

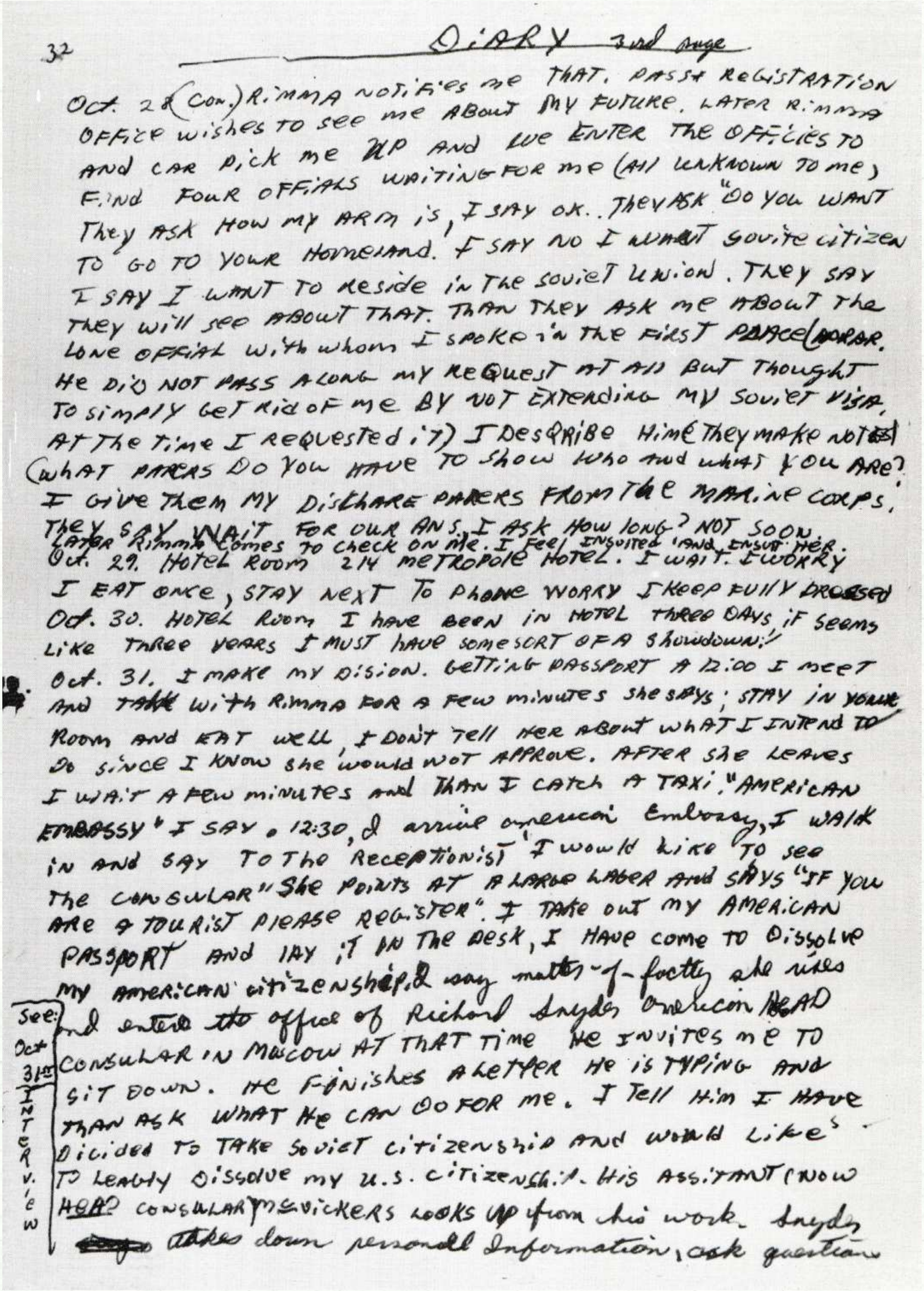
Oct. 24 Hospital routine, Rimma vists me in afternoon

Oct. 25. " "

Oct. 26 An eldery American at the hospatal grow suspicious
about me for some reason. because at embassy I told
him I had not registered as most tourist and I am in general
evasive about my presence in Moscow and at hospital afternoon Rimma vists.

Oct. 27. Stiches are taken out by doctor with "dull" scisor

wed Oct 28 mon. Leave hospital in Intorist car with Rimma for
hotel "Berlin" later I change hotels to "Metropole", all cloths
packed, and money from my room (to the last kopeek) returned
as well as watch, ring. Ludmilla Dimitrova (Intorist office head)
and Rosa invite me to come and sit and take with them
any time I get lonesome at new hotel. They feel sorry for me.



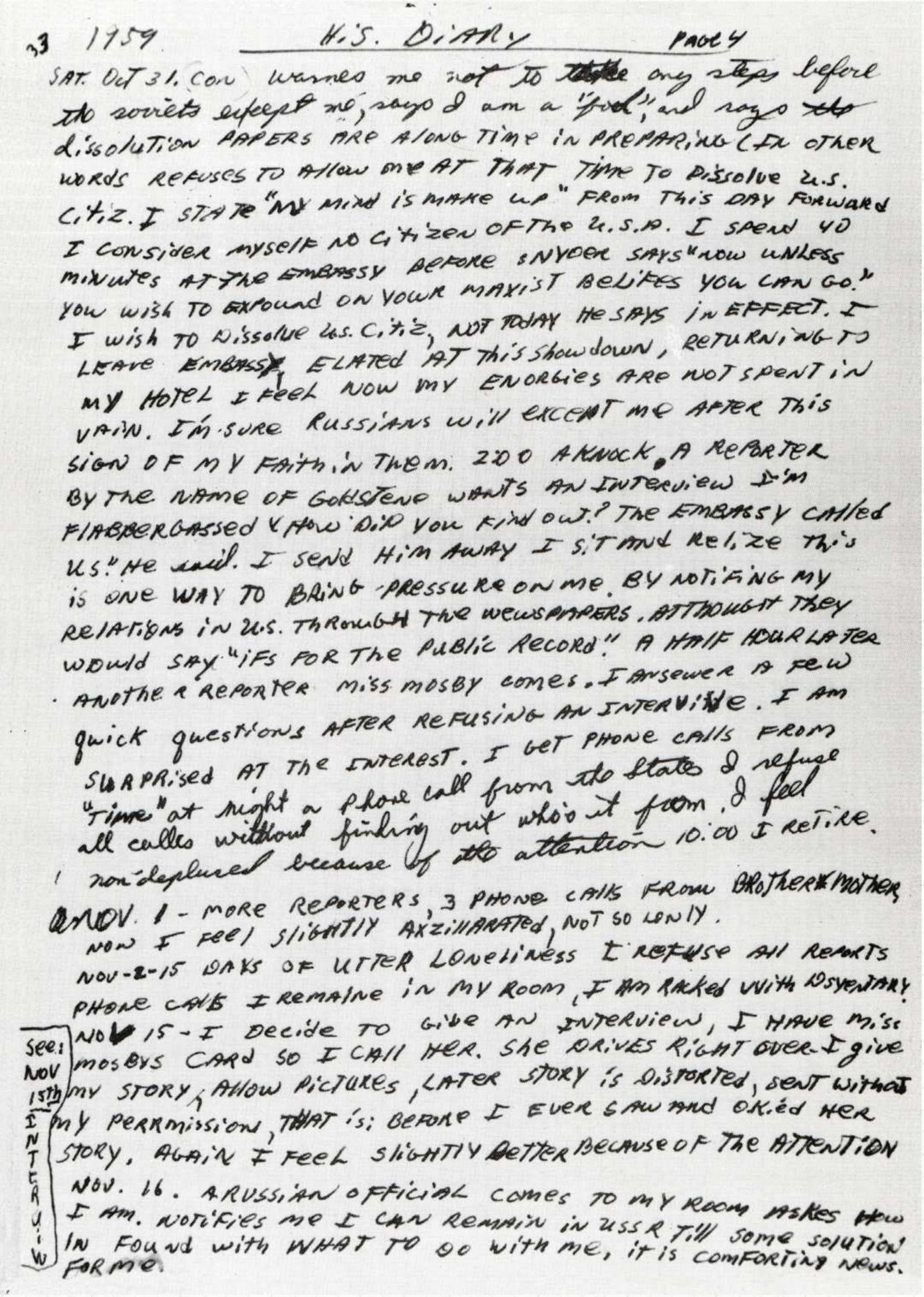
32

DiARY 3rd page

Oct. 28 (Con.) Rimma notifies me that. Passt registration
office wishes to see me about my future. Later Rimma
and car pick me up and we enter the officies to
find four offials waiting for me (all unknown to me)
They ask how my arm is, I say OK.. They ask "Do you want
to go to your homeland." I say no I want Sovite citizen
I say I want to reside in the Soviet Union. They say
they will see about that. Than they ask me about the
lone offial with whom I spoke in the first place (Horar.
He did not pass along my request at all but thought
to simply get rid of me by not extending my Soviet visa,
at the time I requested it) I desqribe him (they make notes)
(what papers do you have to show who and what you are?
I give them my dischare papers from the Marine Corps,
They say wait for our ans. I ask how long? Not soon.
Later Rimma comes to check on me. I feel insuited and insult her.
Oct. 29. Hotel Room 214 Metropole Hotel. I wait. I worry
I eat once, stay next to phone worry I keep fully dressed
Oct. 30. Hotel Room I have been in hotel three days it seems
like three years I must have somesort of a showdown!
Oct. 31. I make my dision. Getting passport a 12:00 I meet
and talk with Rimma for a few minutes she says; stay in your
room and eat well, I don't tell her about what I intend to
do since I know she would not approve. After she leaves
I wait a few minutes and than I catch a taxi. "American
Embassy" I say. 12:30, I arrive american Embassy, I walk
in and say to the receptionist "I would like to see
the consular" she points at a large leger and says "If you
are a tourist please register". I take out my American
passport and lay it on the desk, I have come to dissolve
my American citizenship, I say matter-of-factly she rises

See: Oct 31st INTERVIEW

and entere the office of Richard Snyder American head
consular in Moscow at that time. He invites me to
sit down. He finishes a letter he is typing and
than ask what he can do for me. I tell him I have
dicided to take Soviet citizenship and would like
to leagly dissolve my U.S. citizenship. His assitant (now
head consular) McVickers looks up from his work. Snyder
takes down personall information, ask question



33 1959 H.S. DIARY PAGE 4

SAT. OCT 31. CON warnes me not to ~~take~~ any steps before
the soviets except me, says I am a "fool", and says ~~the~~
dissolution PAPERS ARE ALONG TIME in PREPARING (IN OTHER
WORDS REFUSES TO Allow me AT THAT TIME TO DISSOLVE U.S.
CITIZ. I STATE "MY MIND IS MAKE UP" FROM THIS DAY FORWARD
I CONSIDER MYSELF NO CITIZEN OF THE U.S.A. I SPEND 40
MINUTES AT THE EMBASSY BEFORE SNYDER SAYS "NOW UNLESS
YOU WISH TO EXPOUND ON YOUR MAXIST BELIFES YOU CAN GO."
I WISH TO DISSOLVE U.S. CITIZ, NOT TODAY HE SAYS IN EFFECT. I
LEAVE EMBASSY, ELATED AT THIS SHOWDOWN, RETURNING TO
MY HOTEL I FEEL NOW MY ENORGIES ARE NOT SPENT IN
VAIN. I'M SURE RUSSIANS WILL EXCEPT ME AFTER THIS
SIGN OF MY FAITH IN THEM. 2:00 A KNOCK, A REPORTER
BY THE NAME OF GOLDSTENE WANTS AN INTERVIEW I'M
FLABBERGASSED "HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?" THE EMBASSY CALLED
US." HE said. I SEND HIM AWAY I SIT AND RELIZE THIS
IS ONE WAY TO BRING PRESSURE ON ME. BY NOTIFING MY
RELATIONS IN U.S. THROUGH THE NEWSPAPERS. ALTHOUGH THEY
WOULD SAY "ITS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD." A HALF HOUR LATER
ANOTHER REPORTER MISS MOSBY COMES. I ANSWER A FEW
QUICK QUESTIONS AFTER REFUSING AN INTERVIEW. I AM
SURPRISED AT THE INTEREST. I GET PHONE CALLS FROM
"TIME" at night a phone call from the States I refuse
all calles without finding out who's it from. I feel
non-deplused because of the attention 10:00 I RETIRE.

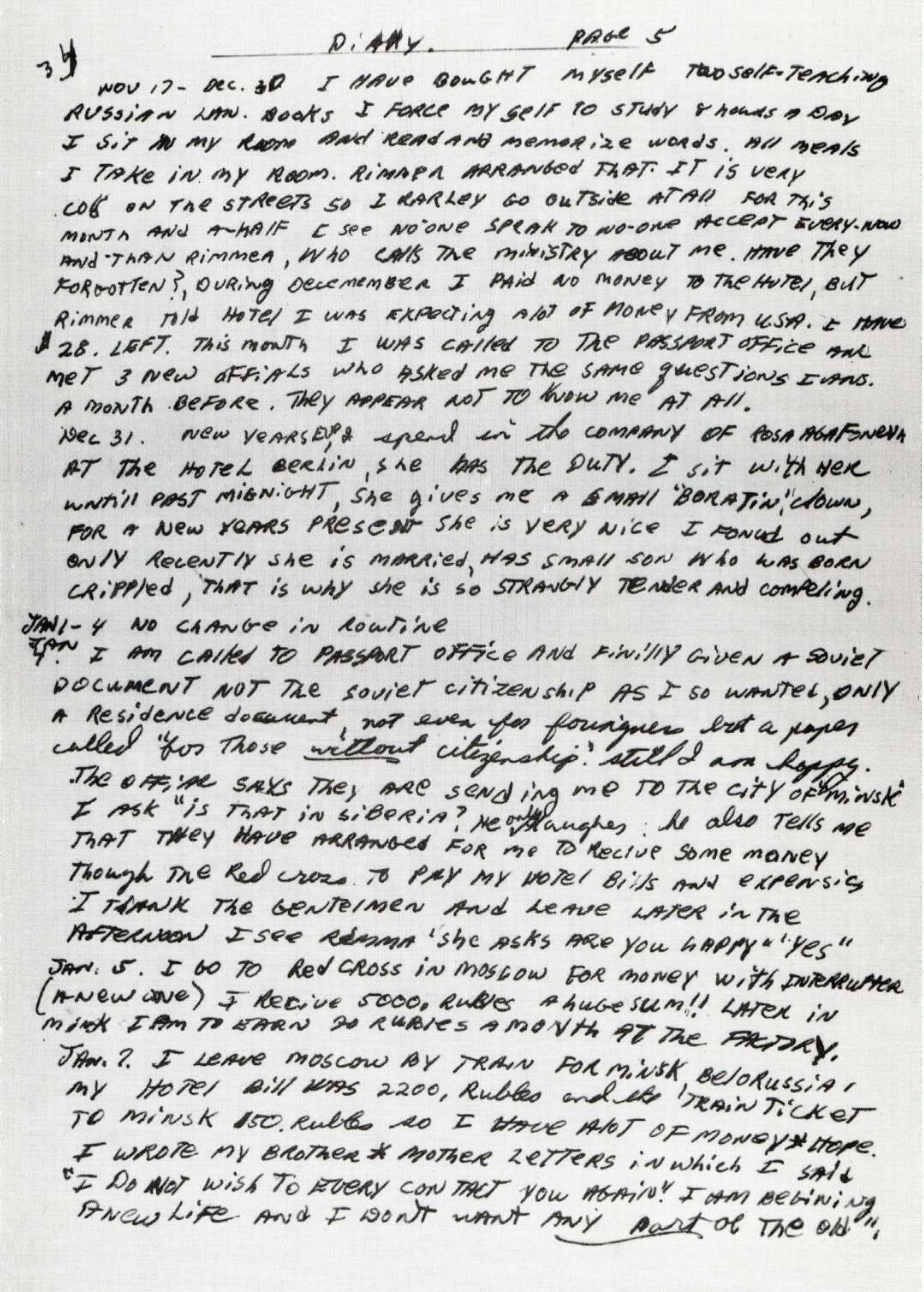
NOV. 1 - MORE REPORTERS, 3 PHONE CALLS FROM BROTHER & MOTHER,
NOW I FEEL SLIGHTLY AXZILLARATED, NOT SO LONLY.

NOV-2-15 DAYS OF UTTER LONELINESS I REFUSE ALL REPORTS
PHONE CALLS I REMAINE IN MY ROOM, I AM RACKED WITH DSYENTARY.

NOV 15 - I DECIDE TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW, I HAVE MISS
MOSBYS CARD SO I CALL HER. SHE DRIVES RIGHT OVER I give
MY STORY, ALLOW PICTURES, LATER STORY IS DISTORTED, SENT WITHOUT
MY PERMISSION, THAT IS: BEFORE I EVER SAW AND OK.ED HER
STORY. AGAIN I FEEL SLIGHTLY BETTER BECAUSE OF THE ATTENTION

NOV. 16. A RUSSIAN OFFICIAL COMES TO MY ROOM ASKES HOW
I AM. NOTIFIES ME I CAN REMAIN IN USSR TILL SOME SOLUTION
IN FOUND WITH WHAT TO DO WITH ME, IT IS COMFORTING NEWS
FOR ME.

See: NOV 15th INTERVIEW



Diary. Page 5

34

Nov 17 - Dec. 30 I have bought myself two self-teaching Russian Lan. books I force myself to study 8 hours a day I sit in my room and read and memorize words. All meals I take in my room. Rimmer arranged that. It is very cold on the streets so I rarley go outside at all for this month and a half I see no-one speak to no-one accept every-now and-than Rimmer, who calls the ministry about me. Have they forgotten?, During decemember I paid no money to the hotel, but Rimmer told hotel I was expecting alot of money from U.S.A. I have $ 28. left. This month I was called to the passport office and met 3 new offials who asked me the same questions I ans. a month before. They appear not to know me at all.

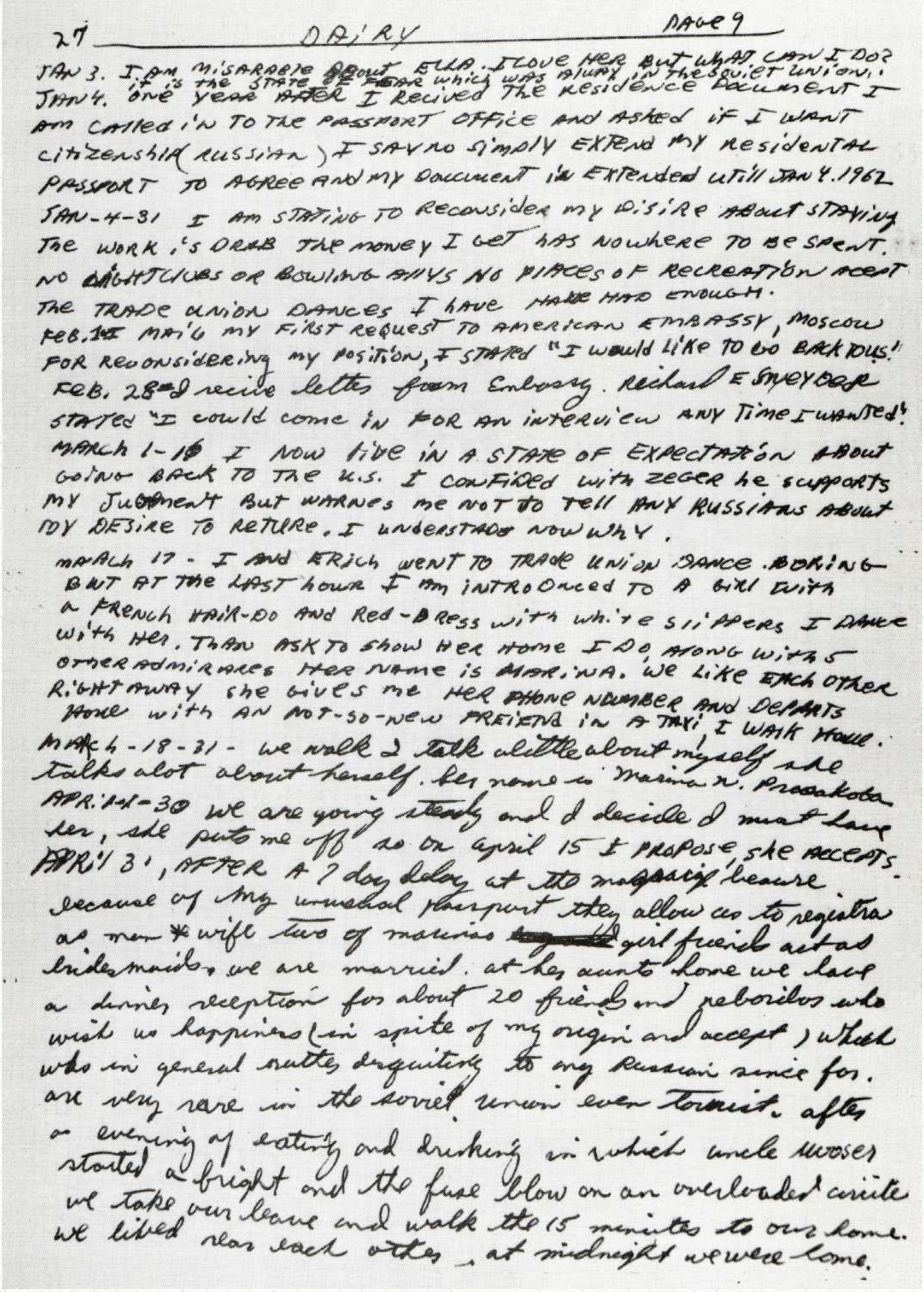
Dec 31. New Years Eve, I spend in the company of Rosa Agafoneva at the Hotel Berlin, she has the duty. I sit with her untill past midnight, she gives me a small "Boratin", clown, for a New Years present she is very nice I fonud out only recently she is married, has small son who was born crippled, that is why she is so strangly tender and compeling.

Jan 1 - 4 No change in rowtine

Jan 4. I am called to passport office and finilly given a soviet document not the soviet citizenship as I so wantel, only a Residence document, not even for foruigners but a papers called "for those without citizenship". still I am happy. The offical says they are sending ing me to the city of Minsk. I ask "is that in Siberia? He only laughes. He also tells me that they have arranged for me to recive some money though the Red croze to pay my hotel bills and expensis. I thank the gentelmen and leave later in the afternoon I see Rimma 'she asks are you happy." "Yes"

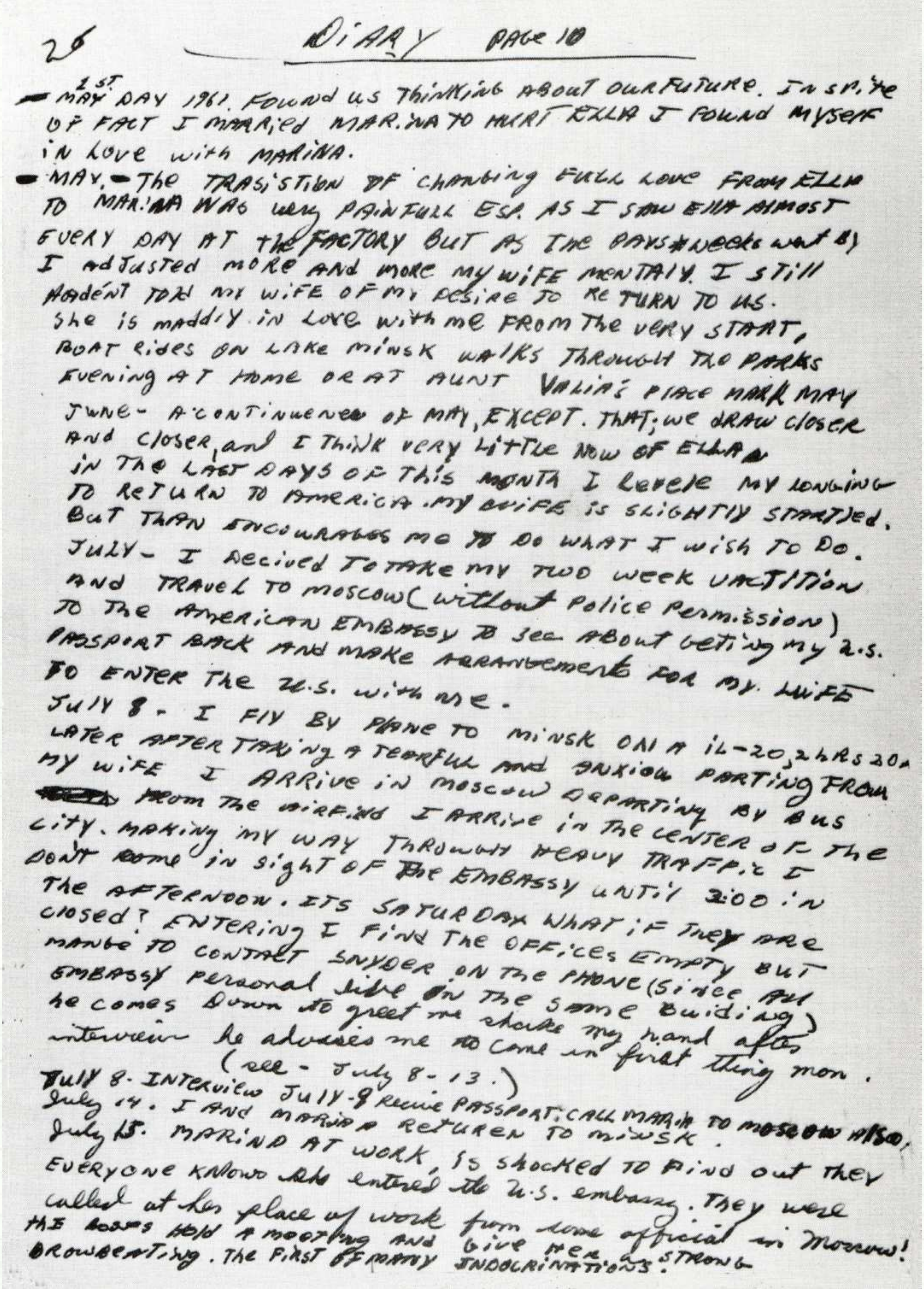
Jan. 5. I go to Red Cross in Moscow for money with interrupter (a new one) I recive 5000. rubles a huge sum!! Later in Minsk I am to earn 70 rubles a month at the factory.

Jan. 7. I leave Moscow by train for Minsk, Belorussia, my hotel bill was 2200, Rubles and the train ticket to Minsk 150. Rubles so I have alot of money & hope. I wrote my brother & mother letters in which I said "I do not wish to every contact you again! I am begining a new life and I dont want any part of the old",



27 DAIRY PAGE 9

JAN 3. I AM MISARABLE ABOUT ELLA. I LOVE HER BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
IT IS THE STATE OF FEAR WHICH WAS ALWAY IN THE SOVIET UNION.
JAN 4. ONE YEAR AFTER I RECIVED THE RESIDENCE DOCUMENT I
AM CALLED IN TO THE PASSPORT OFFICE AND ASKED IF I WANT
CITIZENSHIP (RUSSIAN) I SAY NO SIMPLY EXTEND MY RESIDENTAL
PASSPORT TO AGREE AND MY DOCUMENT IS EXTENDED UTILL JAN 4. 1962
JAN-4-31 I AM STATING TO RECONSIDER MY DISIRE ABOUT STAYING
THE WORK IS DRAB THE MONEY I GET HAS NOWHERE TO BE SPENT.
NO NIGHTCLUBS OR BOWLING ALLYS NO PLACES OF RECREATION ACEPT
THE TRADE UNION DANCES I HAVE HAVE HAD ENOUGH.
FEB. 1st MAIL MY FIRST REQUEST TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, MOSCOW
FOR RECONSIDERING MY POSITION, I STATED "I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO US."
FEB. 28 I recive letter from Embassy. Richard E Snyeder
STATED "I COULD COME IN FOR AN INTERVIEW ANY TIME I WANTED".
MARCH 1-16 I NOW LIVE IN A STATE OF EXPECTATION ABOUT
GOING BACK TO THE U.S. I CONFIDED WITH ZEGER HE SUPPORTS
MY JUDGMENT BUT WARNES ME NOT TO TELL ANY RUSSIANS ABOUT
MY DESIRE TO RETURE. I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY.
MARCH 17 - I AND ERICH WENT TO TRADE UNION DANCE. BORING
BUT AT THE LAST HOUR I AM INTRODUCED TO A GIRL WITH
A FRENCH HAIR-DO AND RED-DRESS WITH WHITE SLIPPERS I DANCE
WITH HER. THAN ASK TO SHOW HER HOME I DO, ALONG WITH 5
OTHER ADMIRARES HER NAME IS MARINA. WE LIKE EACH OTHER
RIGHT AWAY SHE GIVES ME HER PHONE NUMBER AND DEPARTS
HOME WITH AN NOT-SO-NEW FREIEND IN A TAXI, I WALK HOME.
MARCH-18-31 - we walk & talk alittle about myself she
talks alot about herself. her name is Marina N. Prusakova
APRIL 1-30 we are going steady and I decide I must have
her, she puts me off so on april 15 I PROPOSE, SHE ACCEPTS.
APRIL 31, AFTER A 7 day delay at the marraige beaure
because of my unusual passport they allow us to registra
as man & wife two of marinas [illegible] girl friends act as
bridesmaids. we are married. at her aunts home we have
a dinner reception for about 20 friends and neboribos who
wish us happiness (in spite of my orgin and accept) which
who in general rather disquiting to any Russian since for.
are very rare in the soviet union even tourist. after
an evening of eating and drinking in which uncle Wooser
started a fright and the fuse blow on an overloaded circite
we take our leave and walk the 15 minutes to our home.
we lived near each other, at midnight we were home.



26 DIARY PAGE 10

— 1st May Day 1961 found us thinking about our future. Inspite of fact I married Marina to hurt Ella I found myself in love with Marina.

— May. — The trasistion of changing full love from Ella to Marina was very painfull esp. as I saw Ella almost every day at the factory but as the days & weeks went by I adjusted more and more my wife mentaly. I still hadent told my wife of my desire to return to US. She is maddly in love with me from the very start, boat rides on Lake Minsk walks through the parks evening at home or at Aunt Valia's place mark May

June — A continuence of May, except. that; we draw closer and closer, and I think very little now of Ella. in the last days of this month I revele my longing to return to America. My wife is slightly startled. But than encourages me to do what I wish to do.

July — I decived to take my two week vacation and travel to Moscow (without police permission) to the American Embassy to see about geting my U.S. passport back and make arrangements for my wife to enter the U.S. with me.

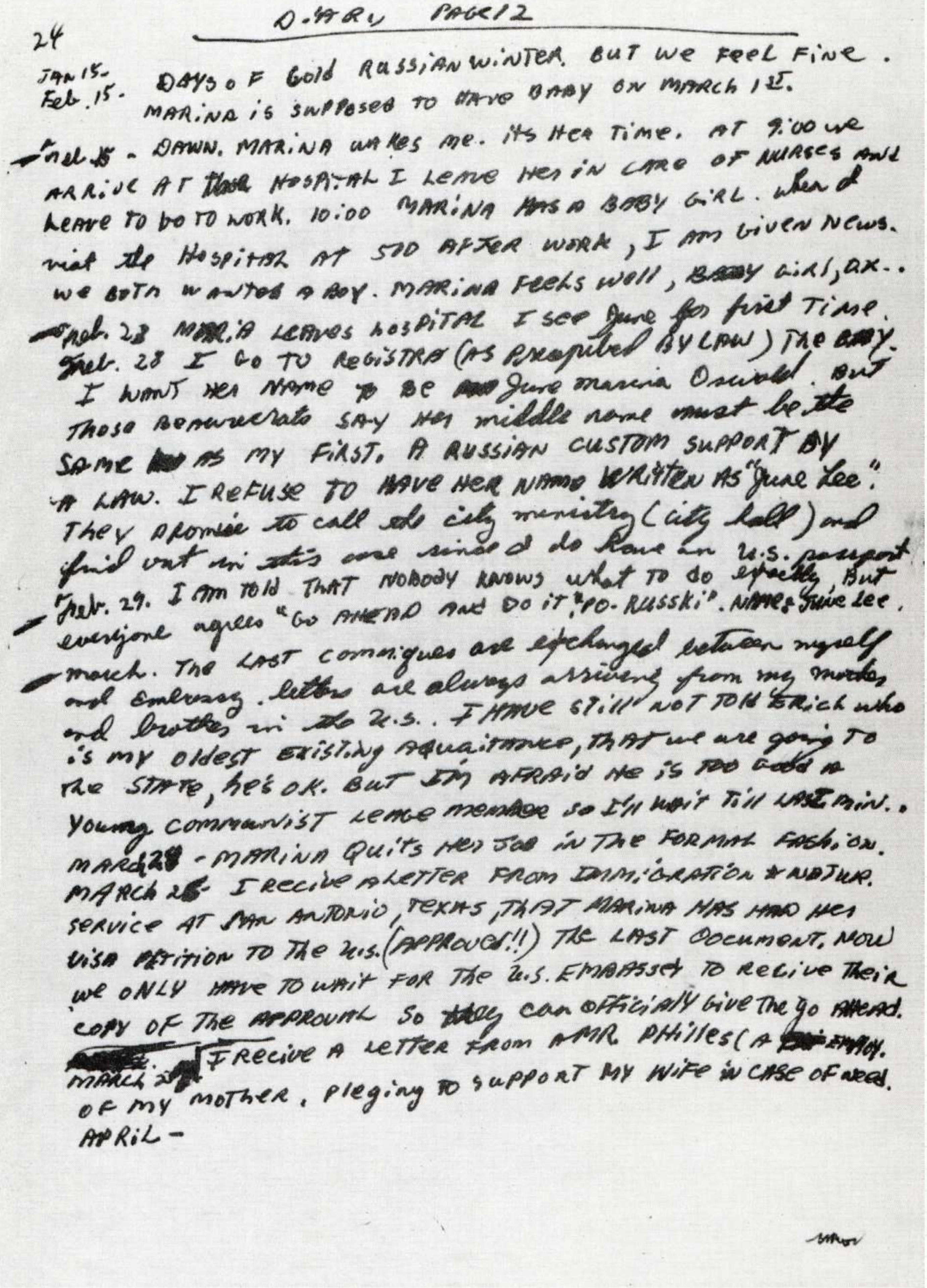
July 8 — I fly by plane to Minsk on a IL-20, 2 hrs 20 min later after taking a tearful and anxious parting from my wife I arrive in Moscow departing by bus from the airfield I arrive in the center of the city. Making my way through heavy traffic I dont come in sight of the embassy until 3:00 in the afternoon. Its Saturday what if they are closed? Entering I find the offices empty but manage to contact Snyder on the phone (since all embassy personal live in the same building) he comes down to greet me shake my hand after interview he advises me to come in first thing mon.

(see — July 8 - 13.)

July 8. Interview July 9 recive passport; call Marina to Moscow also.

July 14. I and Marina returen to Minsk.

July 15. Marina at work, is shocked to find out they everyone knows she entered the U.S. embassy. They were called at her place of work from some official in Moscow! The bosses hold a meeting and give her a strong browbeating. The first of many indocrinations.

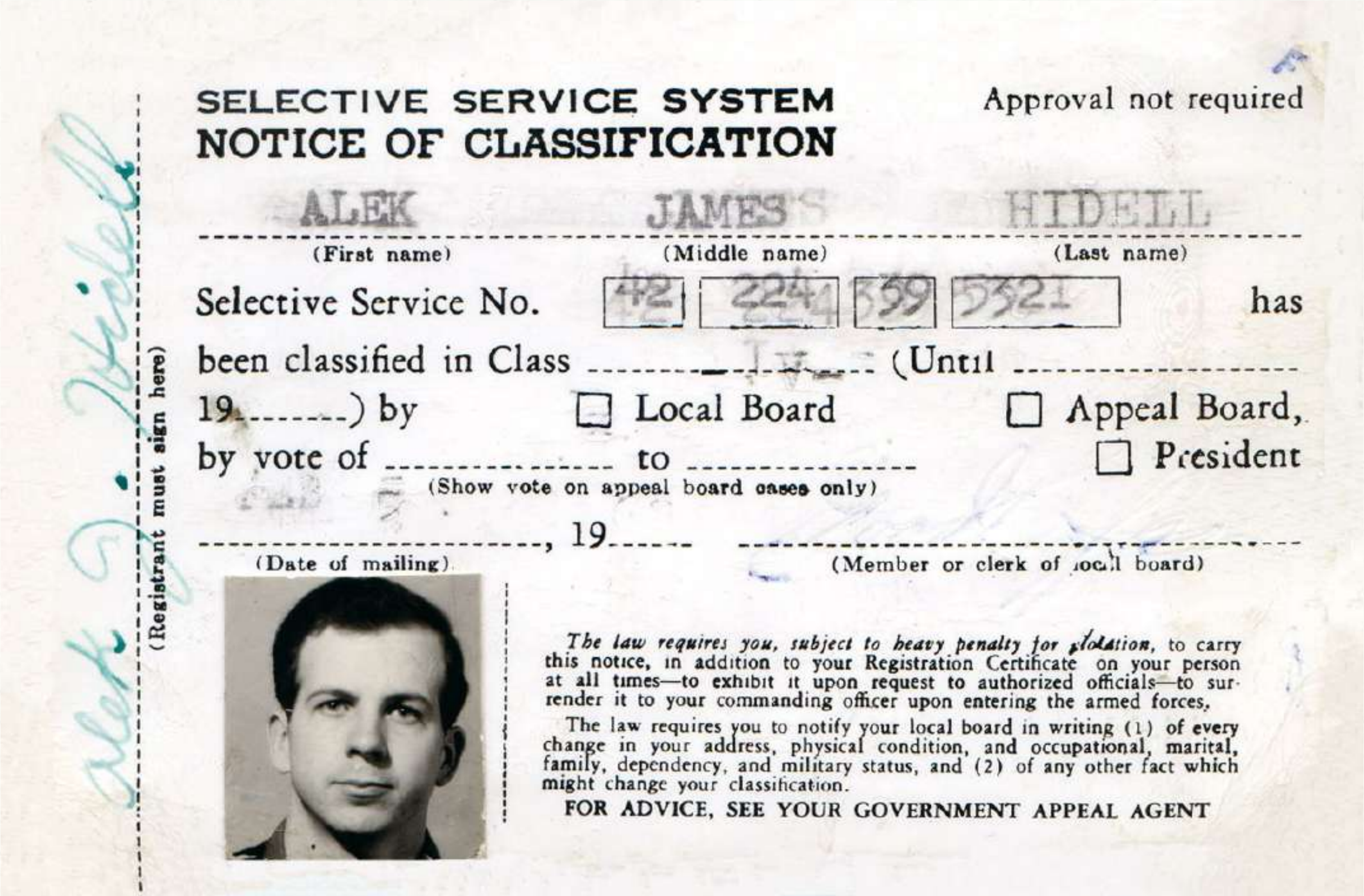


DiARY PAGE 12

24

JAN 15-
Feb. 15. DAYS OF COLD RUSSIAN WINTER. BUT WE FEEL FINE.
MARINA IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BABY ON MARCH 1st.
Feb 15 - DAWN. MARINA WAKES ME. ITS HER TIME. AT 9:00 we
ARRIVE AT ~~the~~ HOSPITAL I LEAVE HER IN CARE OF NURSES AND
LEAVE TO GO TO WORK. 10:00 MARINA HAS A BABY GIRL. when I
visit the HOSPITAL AT 5:00 AFTER WORK, I AM GIVEN NEWS.
WE BOTH WANTED A BOY. MARINA FEELS WELL, BABY GIRL, OK..
Feb. 23 MARINA LEAVES HOSPITAL I SEE June for first TIME.
Feb. 28 I GO TO REGISTRAR (AS REQUIRED BY LAW) THE BABY.
I WANT HER NAME TO BE [illegible] June Marina Oswald. But
THOSE BUREAUCRATS SAY HER middle name must be the
SAME [illegible] AS MY FIRST. A RUSSIAN CUSTOM SUPPORT BY
A LAW. I REFUSE TO HAVE HER NAME WRITTEN AS "June Lee".
THEY PROMISE to call the city ministry (city hall) and
find out in this case since I do have an U.S. passport
Feb. 29. I AM TOLD THAT NOBODY KNOWS what TO DO exactly. But
everyone agrees "GO AHEAD AND DO IT "PO-RUSSKI". NAME: June Lee.
march. THE LAST comuniques are exchanged between myself
and Embassy. letters are always arriving from my mother
and brother in the U.S.. I HAVE STILL NOT TOLD ERICH who
is MY OLDEST EXISTING AQUAITANCE, THAT we are going TO
THE STATE, he's OK. BUT I'M AFRAID HE IS TOO GOOD A
YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGE MEMBER SO I'll WAIT TILL LAST MIN..
MARCH 24 - MARINA QUITS HER JOB IN THE FORMAL FASHION.
MARCH 27 - I RECIVE A LETTER FROM IMMIGRATION & NATUR.
SERVICE AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, THAT MARINA HAS HAD HER
VISA PETITION TO THE U.S. (APPROVED!!) THE LAST DOCUMENT. NOW
WE ONLY HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY TO RECIVE THEIR
COPY OF THE APPROVAL SO ~~they~~ CAN OFFICIALLY GIVE THE go AHEAD.
[illegible] I RECIVE A LETTER FROM A MR. PHILLIPS (A [illegible] EMPLOY.
MARCH 28 OF MY MOTHER. PLEGING TO SUPPORT MY WIFE IN CASE OF NEED.
APRIL -

ITEM 2: SELECTIVE SERVICE CARD



SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION

Approval not required

ALEK JAMES HIDELL
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Selective Service No. 42 224 39 5321 has been classified in Class ________ (Until ________ 19____) by ☐ Local Board ☐ Appeal Board, ☐ President by vote of ________ to ________
(Show vote on appeal board cases only)

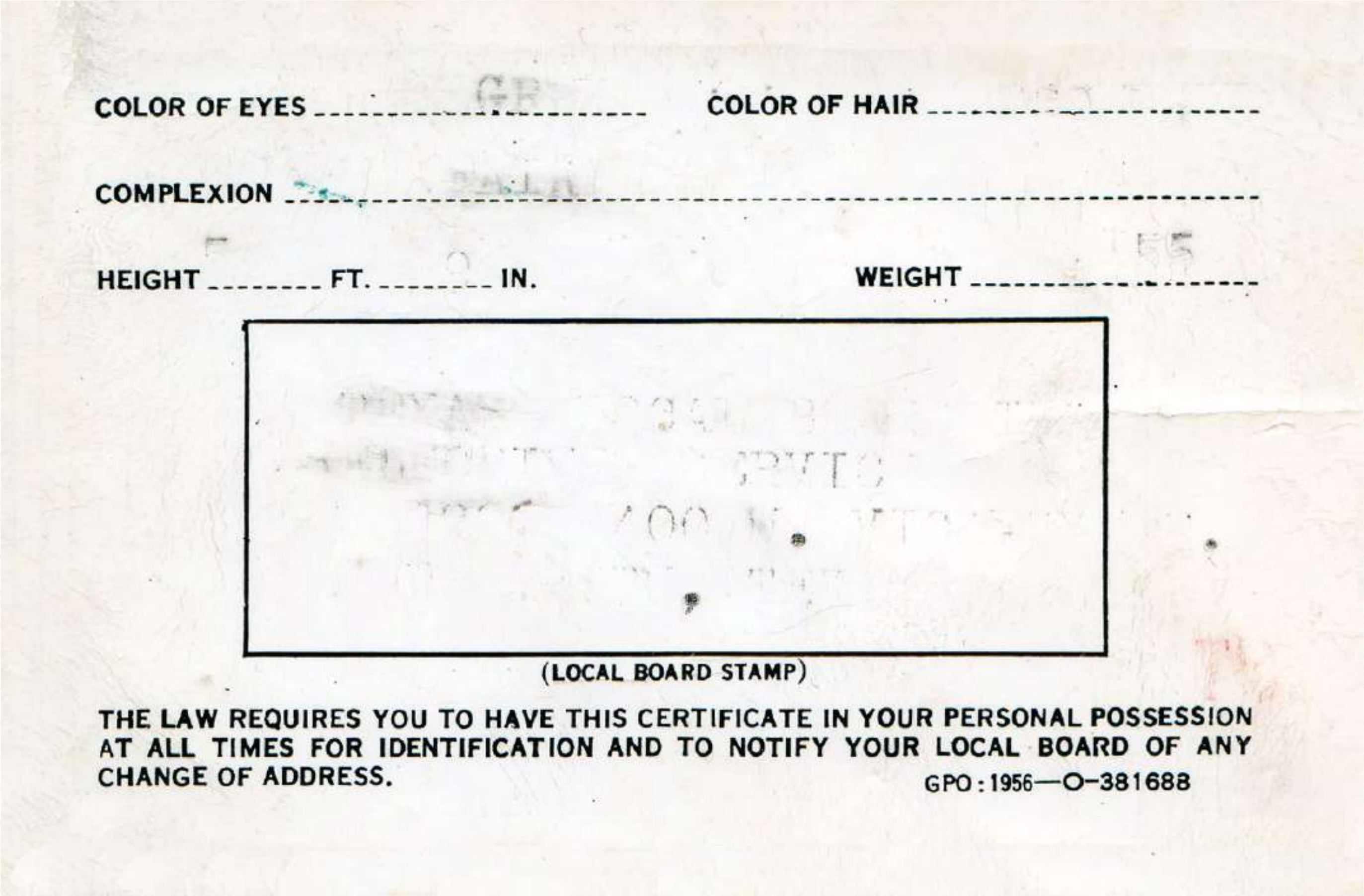
________, 19____ ________
(Date of mailing) (Member or clerk of local board)

(Registrant must sign here) Alek J. Hidell

The law requires you, subject to heavy penalty for violation, to carry this notice, in addition to your Registration Certificate on your person at all times—to exhibit it upon request to authorized officials—to surrender it to your commanding officer upon entering the armed forces.

The law requires you to notify your local board in writing (1) of every change in your address, physical condition, and occupational, marital, family, dependency, and military status, and (2) of any other fact which might change your classification.

FOR ADVICE, SEE YOUR GOVERNMENT APPEAL AGENT



COLOR OF EYES GR________ COLOR OF HAIR ________

COMPLEXION ________

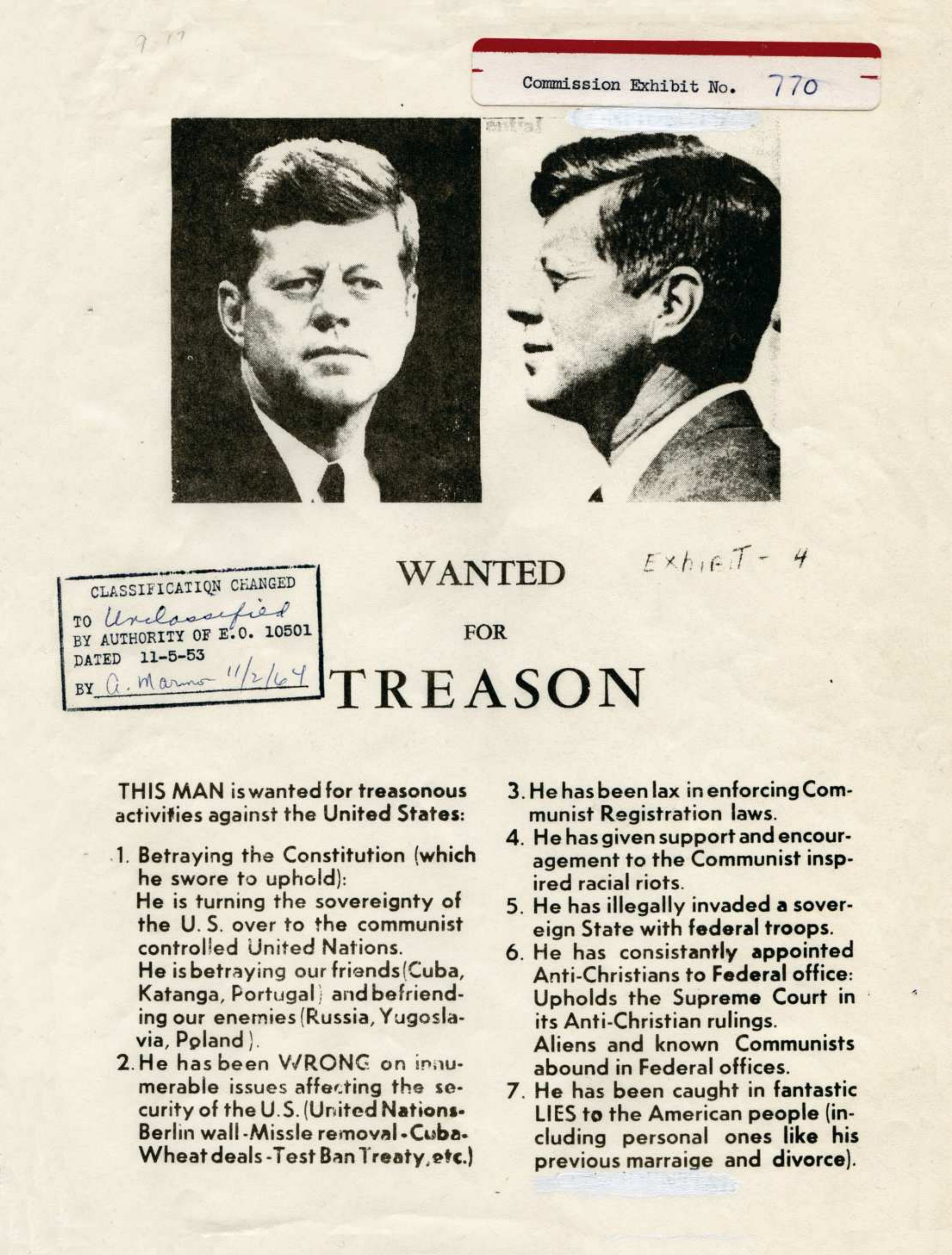
HEIGHT ________ FT. ________ IN. WEIGHT 155________

(LOCAL BOARD STAMP)

THE LAW REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE THIS CERTIFICATE IN YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES FOR IDENTIFICATION AND TO NOTIFY YOUR LOCAL BOARD OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

GPO : 1956—O-381688

ITEM 3: TREASON POSTER



9-17

Commission Exhibit No. 770

WANTED

FOR

TREASON

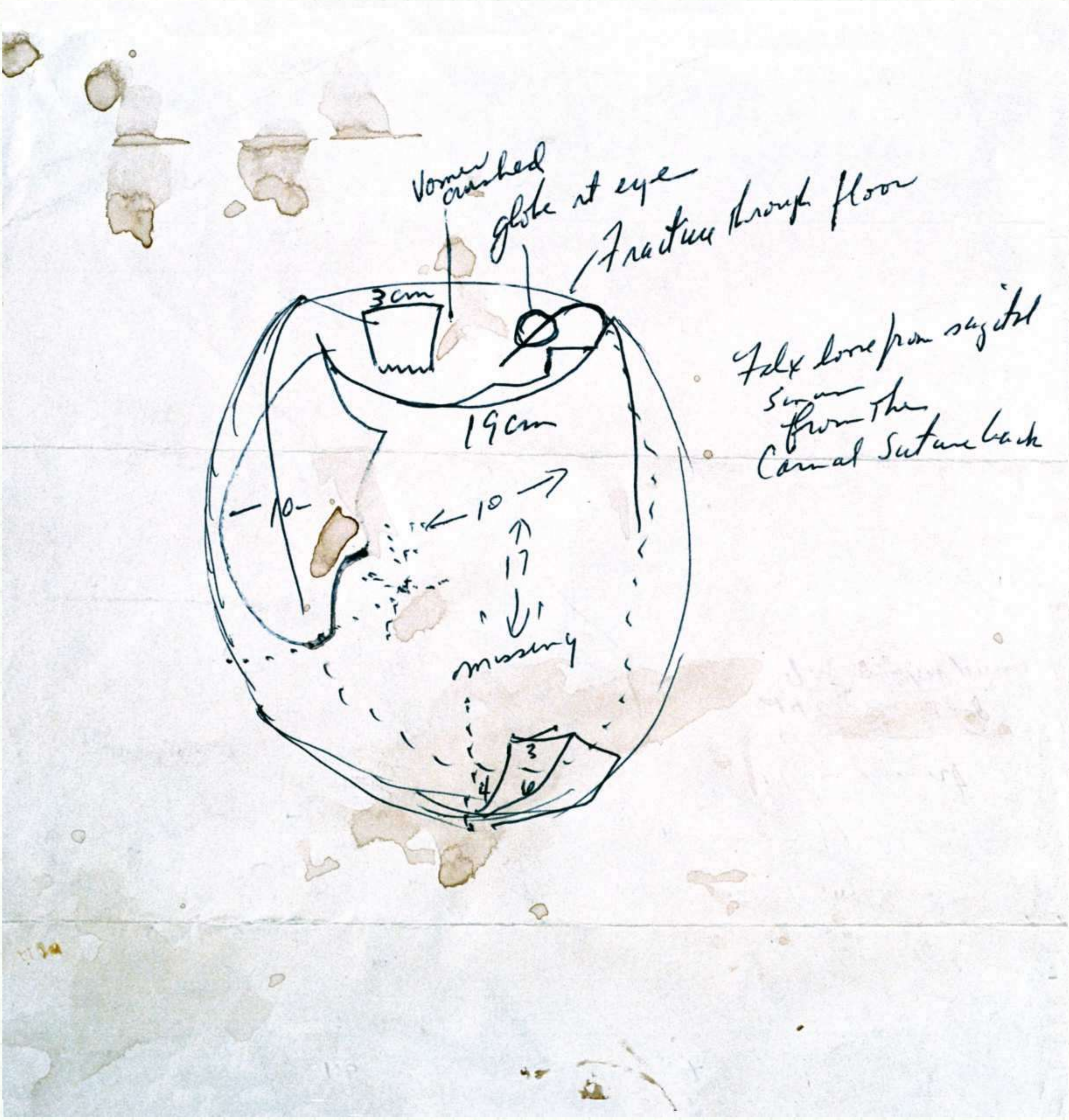
EXHIBIT - 4

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED
TO Unclassified
BY AUTHORITY OF E.O. 10501
DATED 11-5-53
BY A. Marmo 11/2/64

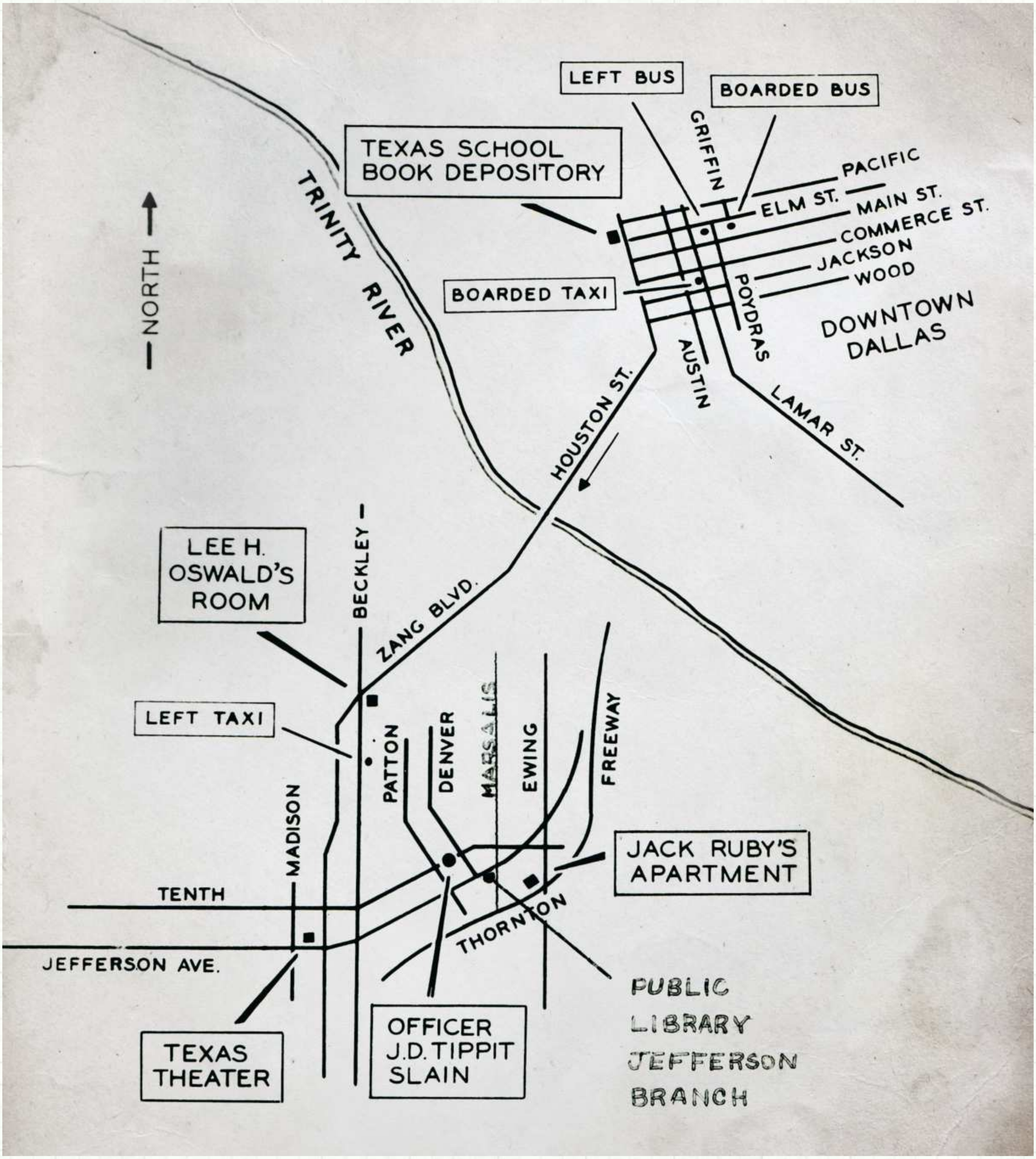
THIS MAN is wanted for treasonous activities against the United States:

1. Betraying the Constitution (which he swore to uphold):
   He is turning the sovereignty of the U. S. over to the communist controlled United Nations.
   He is betraying our friends (Cuba, Katanga, Portugal) and befriending our enemies (Russia, Yugoslavia, Poland).
2. He has been WRONG on innumerable issues affecting the security of the U.S. (United Nations-Berlin wall-Missle removal-Cuba-Wheat deals-Test Ban Treaty, etc.)
3. He has been lax in enforcing Communist Registration laws.
4. He has given support and encouragement to the Communist inspired racial riots.
5. He has illegally invaded a sovereign State with federal troops.
6. He has consistantly appointed Anti-Christians to Federal office: Upholds the Supreme Court in its Anti-Christian rulings.
   Aliens and known Communists abound in Federal offices.
7. He has been caught in fantastic LIES to the American people (including personal ones like his previous marraige and divorce).

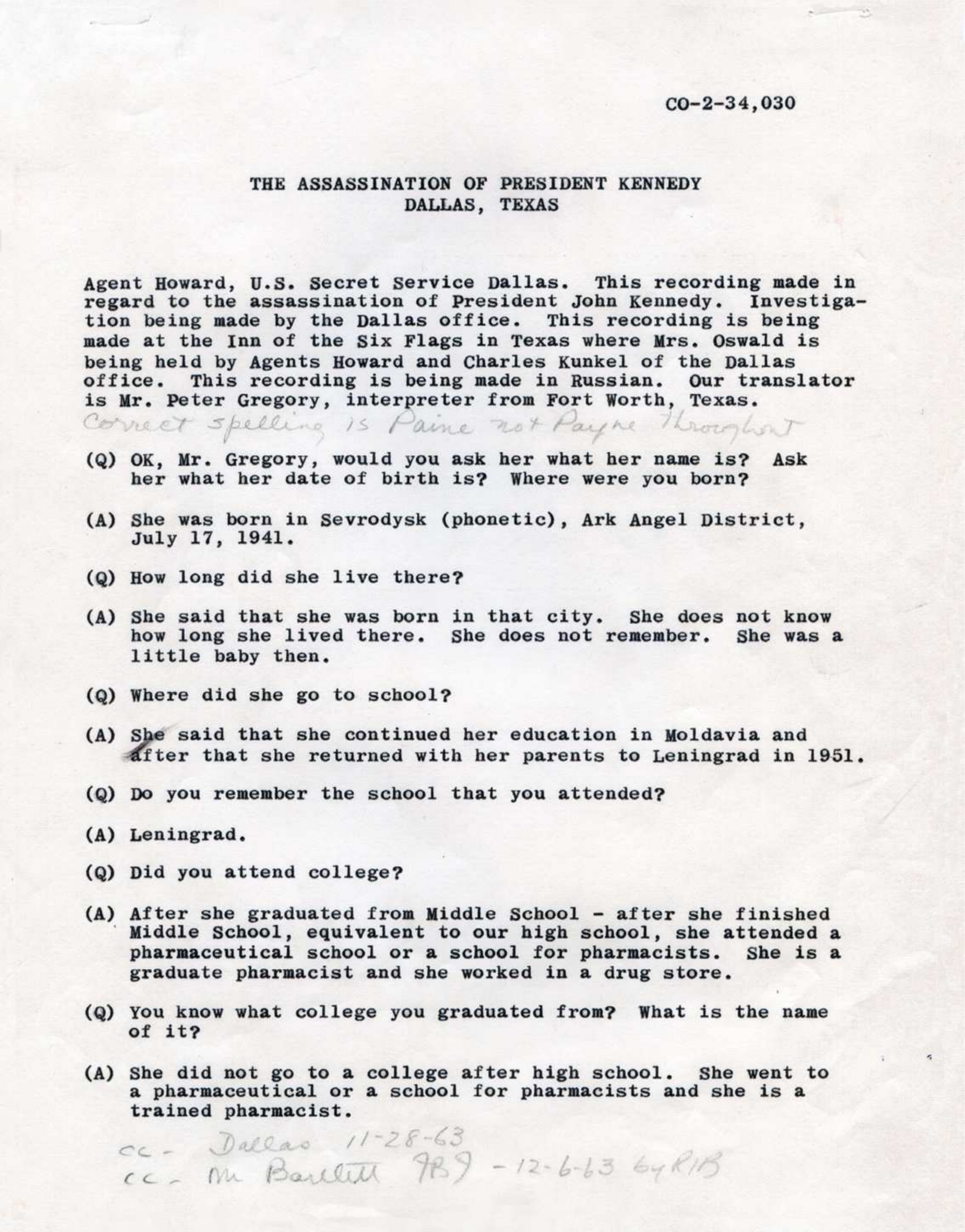
ITEM 4: AUTOPSY DIAGRAM


Vomer crushed
globe rt eye
Fracture through floor
3cm
19cm
Falx loose from sagittal sinus from the Coronal Suture back
10
10
17
missing
3
6
4

ITEM 5: SECRET SERVICE MAP OF DALLAS


LEFT BUS
BOARDED BUS
TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY
NORTH
TRINITY RIVER
GRIFFIN
PACIFIC
ELM ST.
MAIN ST.
COMMERCE ST.
JACKSON
WOOD
BOARDED TAXI
POYDRAS
AUSTIN
DOWNTOWN DALLAS
LAMAR ST.
HOUSTON ST.
LEE H. OSWALD'S ROOM
BECKLEY
ZANG BLVD.
LEFT TAXI
PATTON
DENVER
MARSALIS
EWING
FREEWAY
JACK RUBY'S APARTMENT
MADISON
TENTH
THORNTON
JEFFERSON AVE.
TEXAS THEATER
OFFICER J.D. TIPPIT SLAIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY JEFFERSON BRANCH

ITEM 6: MARINA OSWALD'S SECRET SERVICE STATEMENT



CO-2-34,030

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Agent Howard, U.S. Secret Service Dallas. This recording made in regard to the assassination of President John Kennedy. Investigation being made by the Dallas office. This recording is being made at the Inn of the Six Flags in Texas where Mrs. Oswald is being held by Agents Howard and Charles Kunkel of the Dallas office. This recording is being made in Russian. Our translator is Mr. Peter Gregory, interpreter from Fort Worth, Texas.

Correct spelling is Paine not Payne throughout

(Q) OK, Mr. Gregory, would you ask her what her name is? Ask her what her date of birth is? Where were you born?

(A) She was born in Sevrodysk (phonetic), Ark Angel District, July 17, 1941.

(Q) How long did she live there?

(A) She said that she was born in that city. She does not know how long she lived there. She does not remember. She was a little baby then.

(Q) Where did she go to school?

(A) She said that she continued her education in Moldavia and after that she returned with her parents to Leningrad in 1951.

(Q) Do you remember the school that you attended?

(A) Leningrad.

(Q) Did you attend college?

(A) After she graduated from Middle School - after she finished Middle School, equivalent to our high school, she attended a pharmaceutical school or a school for pharmacists. She is a graduate pharmacist and she worked in a drug store.

(Q) You know what college you graduated from? What is the name of it?

(A) She did not go to a college after high school. She went to a pharmaceutical or a school for pharmacists and she is a trained pharmacist.

cc - Dallas 11-28-63
cc - Mr Bartlett FBI - 12-6-63 by RIB

(Q) Where are her parents now living?

(A) She does not have parents. They are dead.

(Q) Where were they at when they died?

(A) Her mother died in Leningrad and she does not know where her father died.

(Q) But she does know that he is deceased?

(A) She knows.

(Q) How do you know?

(A) Her mother told her that her father died.

(Q) Your mother died in 1951?

(A) Her mother died in 1954 or 1955.

(Q) Do you have any relatives living here in the United States?

(A) Yes, the mother of her husband and the brother of her deceased husband. His name is Robert Oswald.

(Q) Are these all the relatives you have living here in the United States?

(A) These are all the relatives that she knows of. There may be others with whom she is not acquainted.

(Q) Do you have relatives living in Russia or other Communist territory?

(A) She says she has many relatives that live in the Soviet Union. Sisters of her mother and the brother of her mother and their families.

(Q) Do you have any relatives in the Russian military or any Communist military?

(Q) Was it at Mr. & Mrs. Payne's residence?

(A) Yes, in the house where Mrs. Payne lived, but Mr. Payne did not live with Mrs. Payne. She said all their belongings, Oswald's belongings, were partly in the garage and partly in the room, and Lee took part of their belongings to his apartment or place where he lived in Dallas.

(Q) Did he take the rifle with him to his apartment in Dallas?

(A) When the police came to the place where she lived in Irving and asked her if they had a rifle, she said yes, it was in the blanket and when they opened the blanket the rifle was not there. The blanket lay in the same position as before but the rifle was not there.

(Q) While the gun was at the Payne's residence in Irving, did you have an occasion to see this gun more than one time or on several occasions?

(A) She looked inside the blanket once and she knew that the rifle was there. Now she does not remember that she looked at it again, whether she unwrapped the blanket again or not. She does not remember whether she did or did not because she was not interested. She simply knew that the rifle was in the blanket.

(Q) Ma'am, you said you looked inside the blanket one time and saw the rifle was there. Now, when did you look into this blanket and see this rifle?

(A) She did not quite answer this question. She made a side remark that she did not unwrap the blanket and that when she saw the rifle she simply turned a corner of the blanket and she saw the barrel of the gun in it. The gun was wrapped in the blanket. She opened the end of the blanket or part of the blanket and saw the barrel of the gun.

(Q) When did you do this? When did you actually last see the gun?

(A) She says she saw that rifle there two or three weeks ago for the last time. She saw that the rifle was wrapped in the blanket two or three weeks ago but she never opened the blanket again and she discovered that the rifle was gone when the police came and unwrapped the blanket.

(Q) Since that time you actually saw the rifle, had Lee been to your place where you were staying with Mrs. Payne? Let me repeat my question to you. You say that you saw the gun and it was wrapped in a blanket but you actually saw the gun itself. Now, did Lee return back or did Lee come back to Payne's house after you saw the rifle?

(A) She said yes, he came to see us afterwards on Thursday.

(Q) Was it last Thursday?

(A) Yes, he came this last Thursday. Today is Sunday, so he came three days ago.

Agent: That would be November 21 of this year.

(Q) How long did he come after he got off work? What time was this?

(A) She said she looked at her watch, it was 5:20 p.m., in the afternoon.

(Q) How long did he stay?

(A) He spent the night like he usually spends week-ends but, of course, that was not the week end.

(Q) But it was Thursday night, November 21?

(A) He woke up as the alarm clock went off at twenty minutes to seven but he got up at 7:00, which would be Friday morning, and he went to the kitchen, but she did not get up. He got dressed and left. She did not get up because she was feeding the baby, the new born baby.

(Q) Did you talk to him before he went to work?

(A) Yes, as usual, goodby and so forth.

(Q) How did he get to work on this particular morning, Thursday morning on the 22nd of November? How did Lee leave Payne's residence to go to work in Dallas?

(A) She said that she did not see how or what sort of transportation he went to work on because she did not get up.

(Q) Was Mr. Payne at home on this morning of November 22, Friday morning, was Mr. Payne at home?

(A) No, he was not there that morning. He generally comes home she says to eat dinner on Friday after work, **after** 5:00 o'clock, but after work, after 5 o'clock in the evening.

(Q) Do you know how your husband got to work this Friday morning?

(A) No, she does not know. She said no, she does not know. She did not hear the sounds of an automobile or anything. Generally the neighbors also go to work about the same time and generally there is noise, starting automobiles and so forth.

(Q) Did you see any package, did Lee have any package in his hand or was he carrying anything when he left the house?

(A) She says that she did not see him take any object with him. They do not have any long objects in the house except a bag like the military carry.

(Q) Duffel bag?

(A) Yes, but she did not see him carry any.

(Q) But he had a duffel bag. She did see him carry a duffel bag?

(A) No she did not.

Subject added in Russian: They are always at home and they were always in the garage.

(Q) OK, going back to Thursday, after he got to your house at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, November 21, did he handle a gun? Did he have this rifle? Did you see him with this rifle?

(A) She said she would recount in order what happened when Lee came home on Thursday evening after work:

He played with the baby. They were outside and the babies were outside and Lee played with the babies and then they walked into the house together and he greeted her. Then she fixed supper - Ruth Payne fixed the supper and while Mrs. Lee was busy with the children.

(Q) What was Lee doing at this time? Did you see him at the garage?

(A) Lee looked at television while the supper was being fixed and she was with the children. Then he helped her to fold diapers after that and then she said after supper he said he was going to bed while she stayed until half past eleven that night while she was attending to her - (subject interrupted) - and when she came to the room they shared, Lee was already asleep.

(Q) Does Lee subscribe to any type of sports magazines in general?

Subject said in Russian: We receive Times magazine, Russian Ogonek, and papers and also receives "Worker".

Mr. Gregory asked: "Daily Worker" - what kind of organization? Is it "Daily Worker?"

Subject said in Russian: No its "Worker."

Mr. Gregory asked: What kind of organization?

NOTE: The conversation here was whether it was Communist "Worker" or not and where it was published. They decided it was published in New York. It is not "Daily Worker" as such newspaper.

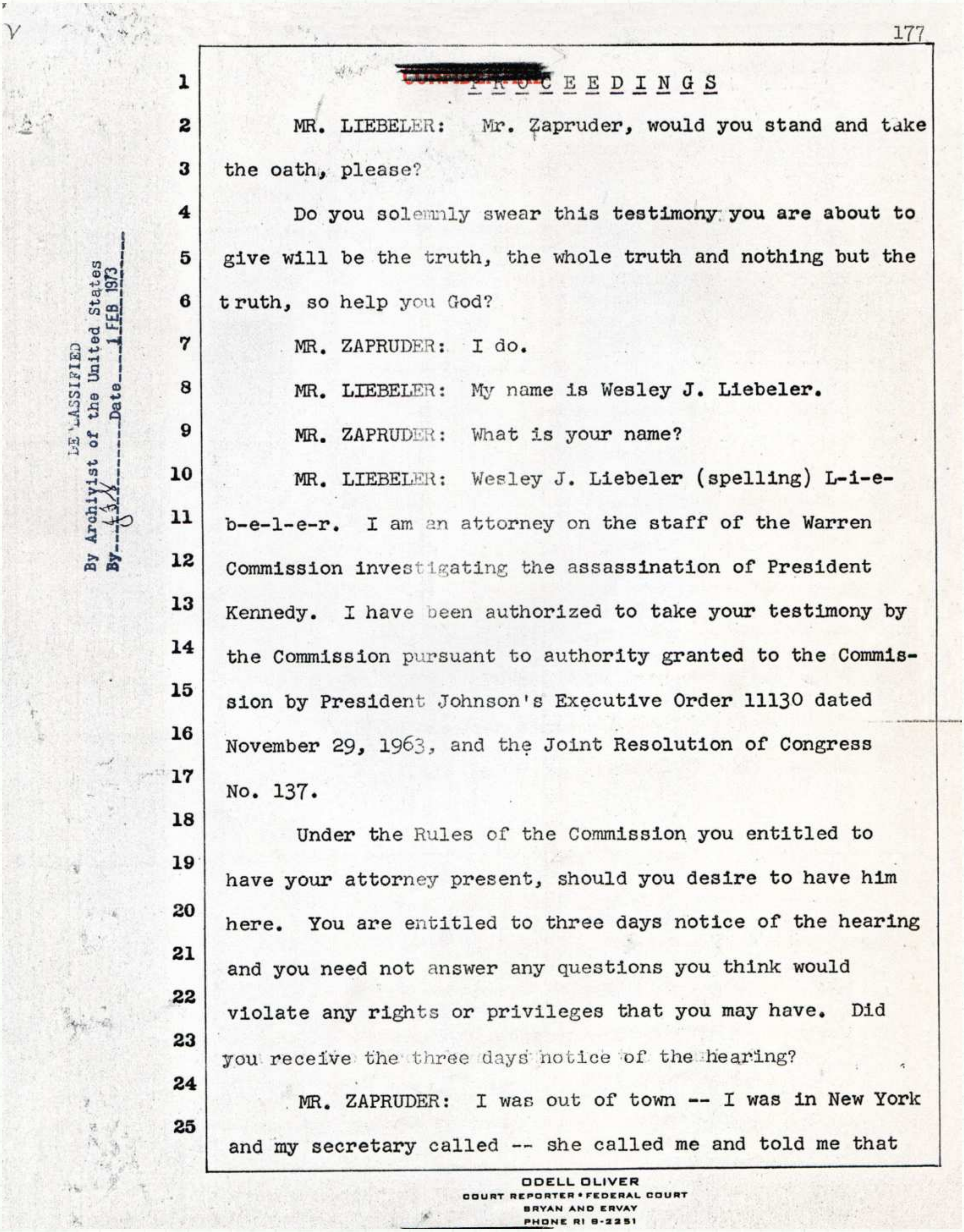
(A) Translation of Mr. Gregory: They receive Time magazine, a Russian magazine entitled Ogonek, which means Little Flame, and Russian newspapers and a newspaper called The Worker. Aside of football, he was not interested in sports. She laughed at him because he did not take any interest in sports.

(Q) When was the last time you saw your husband? When he left home for work? Let me rephrase this question. When he left home for work on Friday, November 22, when was the next time that she saw Lee?

(A) She said the next time she saw him was in the police.

Subject in Russian: I did not see him any more until I saw him at the police.

ITEM 7: ZAPRUDER DESPOSITION



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[redacted] PROCEEDINGS

MR. LIEBELER: Mr. Zapruder, would you stand and take the oath, please?

Do you solemnly swear this testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

MR. ZAPRUDER: I do.

MR. LIEBELER: My name is Wesley J. Liebeler.

MR. ZAPRUDER: What is your name?

MR. LIEBELER: Wesley J. Liebeler (spelling) L-i-e-b-e-l-e-r. I am an attorney on the staff of the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. I have been authorized to take your testimony by the Commission pursuant to authority granted to the Commission by President Johnson's Executive Order 11130 dated November 29, 1963, and the Joint Resolution of Congress No. 137.

Under the Rules of the Commission you entitled to have your attorney present, should you desire to have him here. You are entitled to three days notice of the hearing and you need not answer any questions you think would violate any rights or privileges that you may have. Did you receive the three days notice of the hearing?

MR. ZAPRUDER: I was out of town -- I was in New York and my secretary called -- she called me and told me that

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she made an appointment for me and that's about all that I know, Mr. Liebeler. The other proceedings -- I don't know.

MR. LIEBELER: I assume that you are willing to go ahead with your testimony today since you are here.

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes, I am.

MR. LIEBELER: Would you state your full name for the record, please?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Abraham Zapruder.

MR. LIEBELER: That's spelled (spelling) Z-a-p-r-u-d-e-r? Is that correct?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes.

MR. LIEBELER: What is your address?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Home address?

MR. LIEBELER: Yes.

MR. ZAPRUDER: 3909 Marquette.

MR. LIEBELER: Here in Dallas?

MR. ZAPRUDER: In Dallas -- yes.

MR. LIEBELER: Are you in business here in Dallas, Mr. Zapruder?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes.

MR. LIEBELER: What business are you in?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Manufacturing ladies dresses.

MR. LIEBELER: The manufacture of ladies dresses?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes.

MR. LIEBELER: I understand that you took some motion

[redacted]

pictures at the time of the assassination?

MR. ZAPRUDER: That's correct.

MR. LIEBELER: Could you tell us about the circumstances under which you did that, where you were at the time and what happened?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes.

MR. LIEBELER: And what you saw.

MR. ZAPRUDER: Well, of course, what I saw you have on film, but that was the day, November 22, it was around 11:30. In fact, I didn't have my camera but my secretary asked me why I don't have it and I told her I wouldn't have a chance even to see the President and somehow she urged me and I went home and got my camera and came back and first I thought I might take pictures from the window because my building is right next to the building where the alleged assassin was, and it's just across - 501 Elm Street, but I figured -- I may go down and get better pictures, and I walked down, I believe it was Elm Street and on down to the lower part, closer to the underpass and I was trying to pick a space from where to take those pictures and I tried one place and it was on a narrow ledge and I couldn't balance myself very much. I tried another place and that had some obstruction of signs or whatever it was there and finally I found a place farther down near the underpass that was a square of

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concrete -- I [redacted] you call it -- maybe about four feet high.

MR. LIEBELER: I show you a picture that has been marked Hudson Exhibit No. 1 and ask you if you can in fact see yourself in that picture.

MR. ZAPRUDER: Let me see -- there it is here. That's me standing there -- there's a girl -- that's where I was standing.

MR. LIEBELER: You are pointing out a concrete abutment that comes up immediately to the right of the sign that reads "Stemmons Freeway, Keep Right"?

MR. ZAPRUDER: That's right. That's the girl behind me -- that's my girl that works in my office. She was up there, too.

MR. LIEBELER: So, you and this girl are shown standing on top of this concrete abutment there?

MR. ZAPRUDER: That's right -- she was right behind me and that's from where I took the pictures.

MR. LIEBELER: Then, you can actually see yourself in this picture, can't you?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Well, I can't distinguish myself being -- I know I was there.

MR. LIEBELER: Do you recognize that this picture was taken at the time you were there?

[redacted]

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes, I was there and I would say this couldn't be anybody else, unless -- if this is an authentic photograph and it isn't composed now or changed -- I would say that's me. That's the first time I have seen that. Were these pictures ever published in a magazine -- there were pictures like that I suppose -- actually?

MR. LIEBELER: This picture here is in fact one of a series of pictures that is being sold down here in Dallas by a fellow named Willis, I believe his name is Phil Willis. He has a series of slides that are available and it's picture number five of those slides in which you can see yourself back there.

MR. ZAPRUDER: That must be it because there's another couple back there -- I took some from there and I was shooting some of the pictures to start my roll from the beginning. I didn't want to have a blank and I shot some, in fact, they have it -- the Federal Bureau of Investigation have those pictures.

MR. LIEBELER: Now, as you stood there on this abutment with your camera, the motorcade came down Houston Street and turned left on Elm Street, did it not?

MR. ZAPRUDER: That's right.

MR. LIEBELER: And it proceeded then down Elm Street toward the Triple Underpass, is that correct?

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MR. ZAPRUDER: That's correct. I started shooting -- when the motorcade started coming in, I believe I started and wanted to get it coming in from Houston Street.

MR. LIEBELER: Tell us what happened as you took these pictures.

MR. ZAPRUDER: Well, as the car came in line almost -- I believe it was almost in line -- I was standing up here and I was shooting through a telephoto lense, which is a Zoom Lense and as it reached about -- I imagine it was around here -- I heard the first shot and I saw the President lean over and grab himself like this (holding his left chest area).

MR. LIEBELER: Grab himself on the front of his chest?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Right -- something like that. In other words, he was sitting like this and waving and then after the shot he just went like that.

MR. LIEBELER: He was sitting upright in the car and you heard the shot and you saw the President slump over?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Leaning -- leaning towards the side of Jacqueline. For a moment I thought it was, you know, like you say, "Oh, he got me," when you hear a shot -- you've heard these expressions and then I saw -- I don't believe the President is going to make jokes like this, but before I had a chance to organize my mind, I heard a second shot and then

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I saw his head opened up and the blood and everything came out and I started -- I can hardly talk about it (the witness crying).

MR. LIEBELER: That's all right, Mr. Zapruder, would you like a drink of water? Why don't you step out and have a drink of water?

MR. ZAPRUDER: I'm sorry -- I'm ashamed of myself really, but I couldn't help it.

MR. LIEBELER: Nobody should ever be ashamed of feeling that way, Mr. Zapruder. I feel the same way myself. It was a terrible thing.

Let me go back now for just a moment and ask you how many shots you heard altogether.

MR. ZAPRUDER: I thought I heard two, it could be three, because to my estimation I thought he was hit on the second -- I really don't know. The whole thing that has been transpiring -- it was very upsetting and as you see -- I got a little better all the time and this came up again and it to me looked like the second shot, but I don't know. I never even heard a third shot.

MR. LIEBELER: You didn't hear any shot after you saw him hit?

MR. ZAPRUDER: I heard the second -- after the first shot -- I saw him leaning over and after the second shot --

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it's possible after what I saw, you know, then I started yelling, "They killed him, they killed him," and I just felt that somebody had ganged up on him and I was still shooting the pictures until he got under the underpass -- I don't even know how I did it. And then, I didn't even remember how I got down from that abutment there, but there I was, I guess, and I was walking towards -- back towards my office and screaming, "They killed him, they killed him", and the people that I met on the way didn't even know what happened and they kept yelling, "What happened, what happened, what happened?". It seemed that they had heard a shot but they didn't know exactly what had happened as the car sped away, and I kept on just yelling, "They killed him, they killed him, they killed him", and finally got to my office and my secretary -- I told her to call the police or the Secret Service -- I don't know what she was doing, and that's about all. I was very much upset. Naturally, I couldn't imagine such a thing being done. I just went to my desk and stopped there until the police came and then we were required to get a place to develop the films. I knew I had something, I figured it might be of some help -- I didn't know what.

As to what happened -- I remember the police were running behind me. There were police running right behind

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me. Of course, they didn't realize yet, I guess, where the shot came from -- that it came from that height.

MR. LIEBELER: As you were standing on this abutment facing Elm Street, you say the police ran over behind the concrete structure behind you and down the railroad track behind that, is that right?

MR. ZAPRUDER: After the shots?

MR. LIEBELER: Yes.

MR. ZAPRUDER. Yes -- after the shots -- yes, some of them were motorcycle cops -- I guess they left their motorcycles running and they were running right behind me, of course, in the line of the shooting. I guess they thought it came from right behind me.

MR. LIEBELER: Did you have any impression as to the direction from which these shots came?

MR. ZAPRUDER: No,.I also thought it came from back of me. Of course, you can't tell when something is in line -- it could come from anywhere, but being I was here and he was hit on this line and he was hit right in the head -- I saw it right around here, so it looked like it came from here and it could come from there.

MR. LIEBELER: All right, as you stood here on the abutment and looked down into Elm Street, you saw the Preside hit on the right side of the head and you thought perhaps the shots had come from behind you?

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MR. ZAPRUDER: Well, yes.

MR. LIEBELER: From the direction behind you?

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes, actually -- I couldn't say what I thought at the moment, where they came from -- after the impact of the tragedy was really what I saw and I started and I said -- yelling, "They've killed him" -- I assumed that they came from there, because as the police started running back of me, it looked like it came from the back of me.

MR. LIEBELER: But you didn't form any opinion at that time as to what direction the shots did come from actually?

MR. ZAPRUDER: No.

MR. LIEBELER: And you indicated that they could have come also from behind or from any other direction except perhaps from the left, because they could have been from behind or even from the front.

MR. ZAPRUDER: Well, it could have been -- in other words if you have a point -- you could hit a point from any place, as far as that's concerned. I have no way of determining what direction the bullet was going.

MR. LIEBELER: Did you form any opinion about the direction from which the shots came by the sound, or were you just upset by the thing you had seen?

MR. ZAPRUDER: No, there was too much reverberation. There was an echo which gave me a sound all over. In other

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words that square is kind of -- it had a sound all over.

MR. LIEBELER: And with the buildings around there, too

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes, and the reverberation was such that a sound -- as it would vibrate -- it didn't vibrate so much but as to whether it was a backfire -- in other words, I didn't from the first sound, from him leaning over -- I couldn't think it was a shot, but of course, the second -- I think it was the second shot. I don't know whether they proved anything -- they claim he was hit -- that the first bullet went through him and hit Connally or something like that -- I don't know how that is.

MR. LIEBELER: Well, there are many different theories about that. One thing I would like you to do now -- we have a series -- a little book here that is Commission Exhibit 885 and it consists of a number of frames from motion pictures and I want to show you certain numbers of them which are important to our work and ask you if those look like they were taken from your film and if in fact you could recognize it as you look through this book that these are individual frame by frame pictures of the pictures that you took.

MR. ZAPRUDER: Yes, they are frame by frame and they weren't very clear, for the simple reason that on the telephoto lense it's good to take stills -- when you move

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-- did you ever have binoculars and every time you move everything is exaggerated in the move -- that's one reason why they are kind of blurred -- the movement. Now, you want me to identify whether these are my pictures?

MR. LIEBELER: Yes, specifically, I first call your attention to No. 185. This is No. 185 on the back of it and will you look at the whole book and identify it if you can and tell us that those are the pictures that -- that those appear to be the pictures or copies of the pictures that you took from your motion picture camera.

MR. ZAPRUDER: Well, I would say this, they look like -- if they were taken from the film I had -- these are the ones. I mean, I don't know how to express myself.

MR. LIEBELER: Well, they were.

MR. ZAPRUDER: Well, it looks like them -- that's when they turned in from Elm Street. Is that it? I'm trying to visualize it. This is taking it from the opposite side of me, is it, where I would have been taking it, because I see this structure -- I have been around there and -- or these -- this couldn't be here -- where did they get this in there --- how did they get this in there, if I was taking the pictures where did they get this in there? That shouldn't be there.

MR. LIEBELER: This is the thing back up behind on Dealy Plaza, I think, isn't it?

MR. ZAPRUDER: They have one there, too?

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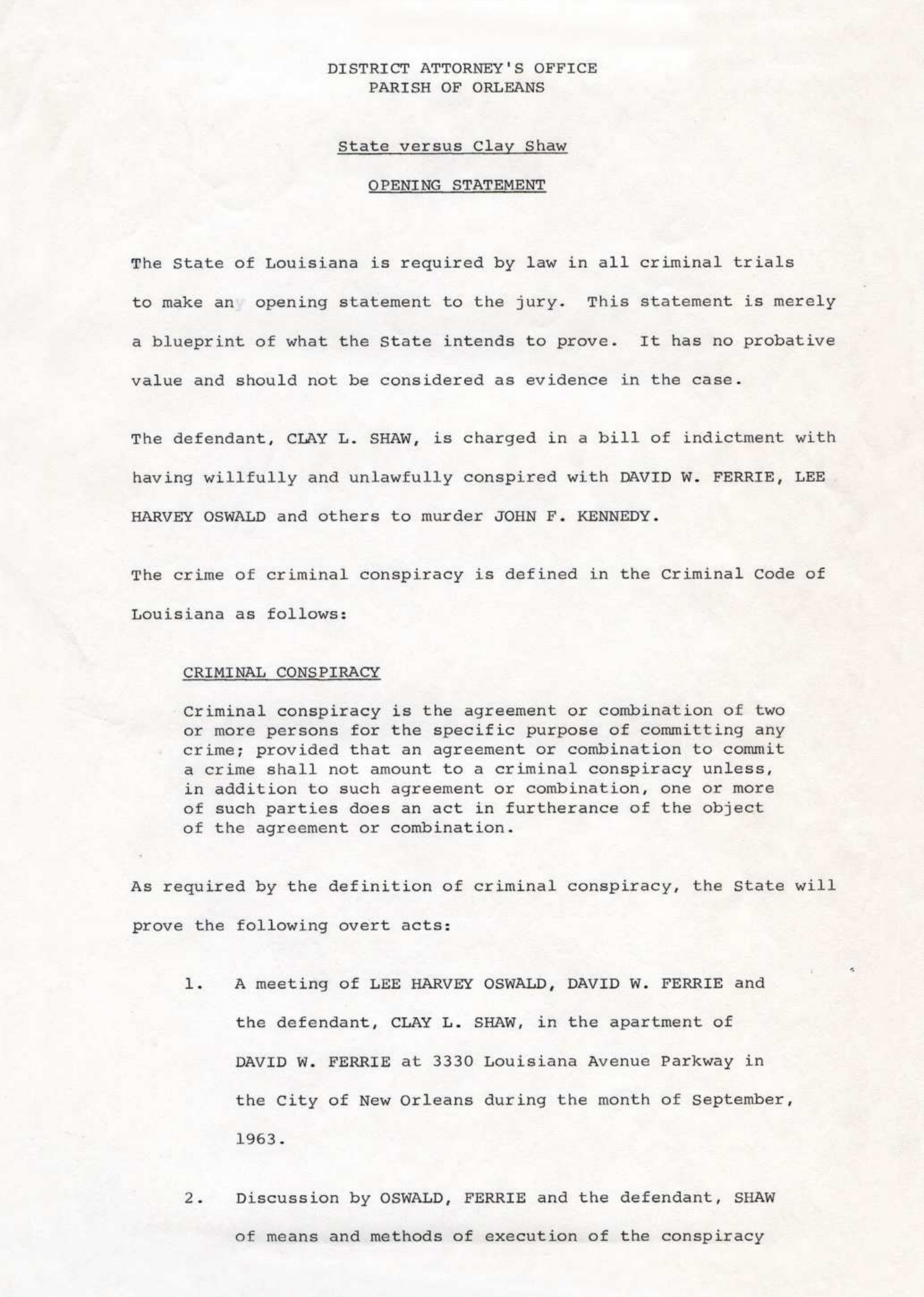
ITEM 8: GARRISON STATEMENT



DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
PARISH OF ORLEANS

State versus Clay Shaw

OPENING STATEMENT

The State of Louisiana is required by law in all criminal trials to make any opening statement to the jury. This statement is merely a blueprint of what the State intends to prove. It has no probative value and should not be considered as evidence in the case.

The defendant, CLAY L. SHAW, is charged in a bill of indictment with having willfully and unlawfully conspired with DAVID W. FERRIE, LEE HARVEY OSWALD and others to murder JOHN F. KENNEDY.

The crime of criminal conspiracy is defined in the Criminal Code of Louisiana as follows:

> CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY
>
> Criminal conspiracy is the agreement or combination of two or more persons for the specific purpose of committing any crime; provided that an agreement or combination to commit a crime shall not amount to a criminal conspiracy unless, in addition to such agreement or combination, one or more of such parties does an act in furtherance of the object of the agreement or combination.

As required by the definition of criminal conspiracy, the State will prove the following overt acts:

1. A meeting of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, DAVID W. FERRIE and the defendant, CLAY L. SHAW, in the apartment of DAVID W. FERRIE at 3330 Louisiana Avenue Parkway in the City of New Orleans during the month of September, 1963.

2. Discussion by OSWALD, FERRIE and the defendant, SHAW of means and methods of execution of the conspiracy

with regard to assassination of JOHN F. KENNEDY -- particularly, the selection and use of rifles to be fired from multiple directions simultaneously to produce a triangulation of cross fire, establishing and selecting the means and routes of escape from the assassination scene, determination of procedures and the places to be used for some of the principals to the conspiracy so as to establish alibis on the date of the assassination.

3. A trip to the West Coast of the United States by CLAY L. SHAW during the month of November, 1963.

4. A trip by DAVID W. FERRIE from New Orleans, Louisiana to Houston, Texas on the day of November 22, 1963.

5. LEE HARVEY OSWALD taking a rifle to the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas, Texas on or before November 22, 1963.

The Criminal Code defines Murder in the following terms:

MURDER

Murder is the killing of a human being:

(1) When the offender has a specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm;

The evidence will show that in New Orleans, in the Summer of 1963, LEE HARVEY OSWALD was engaged in bizarre activities which made it appear ostensibly that he was connected with a Cuban organization, although in fact the evidence indicated that there was no such organization in New Orleans. This curious activity began on June 16th when he distributed "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" leaflets on the Dumaine Street Wharf. This distribution took place at the docking site of the United States Aircraft Carrier, the U.S.S. WASP.

Upon request of the Commanding Officer of the WASP, Officer GIROD RAY of the Harbor Police approached OSWALD and informed him that he would have to stop passing out the leaflets and leave the wharf area. At this time, Officer RAY confiscated two pieces of the literature being handed out by LEE HARVEY OSWALD. One of these was a leaflet, yellow in color with black print, entitled "Hands Off Cuba!" The body of the leaflet contained an invitation to join the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans. The other item taken by Officer RAY was a pamphlet entitled "The Truth About Cuba" published by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, 799 Broadway, New York 3, New York. In conjunction with Officer RAY's testimony, the State will offer into evidence copies of these two pieces of literature.

The evidence will further show that in June, 1963, the defendant, CLAY SHAW, was present at a party given in an apartment in the French Quarter of this city. Among the guests at the party was DAVID FERRIE, a man known as an accomplished airplane pilot. During the course of the party, the conversation among a small group of those present turned to President JOHN F. KENNEDY. In this group were DAVID FERRIE and the defendant, CLAY SHAW. The comment was made that PRESIDENT KENNEDY should be killed and that the job could best be done by a rifle. At this point, the defendant, CLAY SHAW, suggested that the man doing the shooting would probably be killed before he could make his escape. The defendant, after making this observation, turned to FERRIE and asked if it might not be possible to fly the gunman from the scene of the shooting to safety. DAVID FERRIE replied that this would be possible. At this point, the conversation was turned to other subjects.

Later in June of 1963, the defendant, CLAY SHAW, was observed speaking to LEE HARVEY OSWALD on the lakefront in the City of New Orleans. The defendant arrived at the lakefront in a large, black 4-door sedan, and was there met by LEE HARVEY OSWALD, who had walked to the meeting point along the lakefront from a westerly direction. The defendant and OSWALD had a conversation which lasted approximately fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of this conversation, the defendant gave OSWALD what appeared to be a roll of money which he immediately placed in his pocket. In shoving the money into his pocket, OSWALD dropped several leaflets to the ground. These leaflets were yellow in color with black printing and dealt with Cuba. The color, contents and size of these leaflets were identical with the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" leaflet taken from OSWALD earlier that month on the Dumaine Street Wharf by Harbor Police Patrolman GIROD RAY.

The evidence will show that on August 9, 1963, LEE HARVEY OSWALD was arrested by members of the New Orleans Police Department as a result of his becoming involved in a fight with several Cubans who were protesting his passing out "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" literature. This literature was confiscated by the New Orleans Police Department. The State will offer into evidence three of the seized items, one of which is a yellow leaflet with black print entitled "Hands Off Cuba!" This is the same type of leaflet taken from OSWALD at the Dumaine Street Wharf on June 16, 1963, and also the same as the leaflet dropped by OSWALD at the lakefront in the latter part of June, 1963. The State will also introduce the Bureau of Identification photograph taken of LEE HARVEY OSWALD at the time of his booking.

BUELL FRAZIER will testify that he entered the Texas School Book Depository building that morning about 50 feet behind LEE OSWALD. OSWALD was still carrying the package. FRAZIER will testify that he saw OSWALD a couple of times that morning, but never saw the package again. Around noon of that day, FRAZIER went to the front steps of the Texas School Book Depository to watch the presidential motorcade which was due to pass directly in front of the Book Depository as it made its turn off Houston Street onto Elm Street. While the motorcade was passing, FRAZIER heard three shots which sounded like they came from the area of the underpass -- near the grassy knoll -- in front of the President.

At the conclusion of FRAZIER's testimony, the State will introduce into evidence pictures of a paper sack found in the Texas School Book Depository, as well as pictures of Dealey Plaza as it appeared on the day of the assassination.

With regard to the assassination itself, the State will establish that on November 22, 1963, President JOHN F. KENNEDY and Governor JOHN CONNALLY, who was riding in the same limousine, were wounded as a result of gunshots fired by different guns at different locations. Furthermore, the State will show that PRESIDENT KENNEDY himself was struck by a number of bullets coming from different guns at different locations -- thus showing that more than one person was shooting at the President, The evidence will show that he was struck in the front as well as the back -- and that the final shot which struck him came from in front of him, knocking him backwards in his car. Once again, since LEE OSWALD was in the Book Depository behind the President, this will show that a number of men were shooting and that he was, therefore, killed as the result of a conspiracy.

The State, in showing that a number of guns were fired during the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, will offer, in addition to eyewitnesses, various photographs and motion pictures of what transpired in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963.

First, the State will offer an 8mm color motion picture film taken by Abraham Zapruder, commonly known as the Zapruder film. This film, which has not been shown to the public, will clearly show you the effect of the shots striking the President. In this connection we will also offer slides and photographs of various individual frames of this film. The State will request permission from the Court to allow you, the jury, to view this material. Thus, you will be able to see -- in color motion picture -- the President as he is being struck by the various bullets and you will be able to see him fall backwards as the fatal shot strikes him from the front -- not the back but the front.

Also, the State will introduce as evidence certain other photographs and motion picture films, taken during the assassination, as listed below:

1. The "Moorman picture" which is a polaroid photograph taken by Mary Moorman in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963. In addition to this picture, but in connection with it, the State will offer various blow-up prints of this photograph.

2. Various photographs taken by Mr. Philip Willis in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963.

3. Various photographs taken by Miss Wilma Bond in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963.

4. A motion picture film with slides and photographs taken by Mr. John Martin on November 22, 1963.

The State will qualify ROBERT H. WEST, the County Land Surveyor for Dallas County, Texas, as a licensed registered public surveyor and thus competent to testify as an expert as to the topographical aspects of Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas. In conjunction with the testimony of MR. WEST, the State will offer into evidence a certified survey, an aerial photograph and a mock-up of Dealey Plaza.

The State will also qualify DR. ROBERT SHAW as an expert in the field of medicine, and in connection with this testimony we will offer X-rays and medical records concerning GOVERNOR CONNALLY's wounds and treatment at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

The State will qualify and offer the testimony of DR. JOHN NICHOLS, a medical expert in the field of forensic medicine and pathology. In connection with his testimony the State will offer certain exhibits, X-rays and photographs into evidence.

Furthermore, during the presentation of this case, the State will qualify and offer the testimony of Special Agent ROBERT A. FRAZIER of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an expert in the field of ballistics. Special Agent LYNDAL SHANEYFELT, who is a photographic expert with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will be qualified and will testify.

The State also will present eyewitness testimony, corroborating what is shown in the Zapruder film: that the President's fatal shot was received from the front and that he was thrown backward -- not forward -- from the force of this fatal shot. The eyewitness testimony will also show that the shooting came from a number of directions and that, therefore, the President was murdered, not by a lone individual behind him but as the result of a conspiracy to kill him.

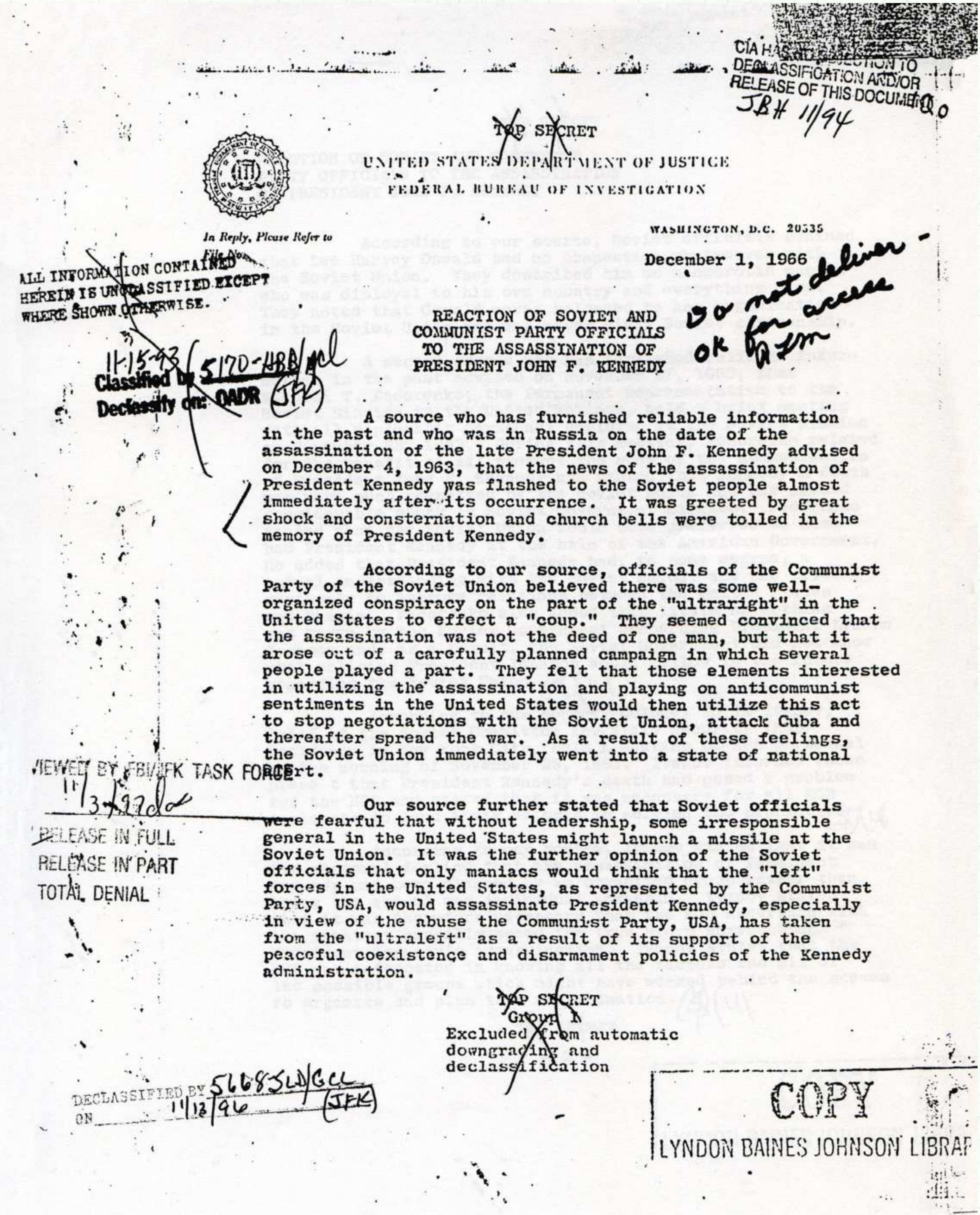
We will then show that a few minutes after the shooting LEE OSWALD came running down the grass in front of the Book Depository, that he climbed into a station wagon with another man at the wheel and that this station wagon pulled away and disappeared into the traffic on Elm Street.

The evidence will further show that shortly after the assassination of PRESIDENT KENNEDY, on November 25, 1963, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation interviewed DEAN A. ANDREWS, JR. in his room at Hotel Dieu Hospital in New Orleans. As a result of this interview with DEAN ANDREWS, a local attorney, the Bureau began a systematic and thorough search for a "CLAY BERTRAND".

A man who identified himself as "CLAY BERTRAND" called ANDREWS the day after the President's assassination requesting him to defend LEE HARVEY OSWALD, who by then had been formally charged with the murder of JOHN F. KENNEDY. The State will introduce evidence in the course of this case showing that the defendant, CLAY SHAW, and the "CLAY BERTRAND" who called DEAN ANDREWS on behalf of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, are one and the same person.

The evidence will further show that sometime during the year 1966 the defendant, CLAY SHAW, requested the U.S. Post Office to deliver mail addressed to him at his residence at 1313 Dauphine Street to 1414 Chartres Street, the residence of a long-time friend, JEFF BIDDISON. This change of address order was terminated on September 21, 1966. During the period that the change of address remained

ITEM 9: REACTION OF SOVIET AND COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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December 1, 1966

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REACTION OF SOVIET AND COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

A source who has furnished reliable information in the past and who was in Russia on the date of the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy advised on December 4, 1963, that the news of the assassination of President Kennedy was flashed to the Soviet people almost immediately after its occurrence. It was greeted by great shock and consternation and church bells were tolled in the memory of President Kennedy.

According to our source, officials of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union believed there was some well-organized conspiracy on the part of the "ultraright" in the United States to effect a "coup." They seemed convinced that the assassination was not the deed of one man, but that it arose out of a carefully planned campaign in which several people played a part. They felt that those elements interested in utilizing the assassination and playing on anticommunist sentiments in the United States would then utilize this act to stop negotiations with the Soviet Union, attack Cuba and thereafter spread the war. As a result of these feelings, the Soviet Union immediately went into a state of national alert.

VIEWED BY FBI/JFK TASK FORCE
11/3/97

~~RELEASE IN FULL~~
RELEASE IN PART
TOTAL DENIAL

Our source further stated that Soviet officials were fearful that without leadership, some irresponsible general in the United States might launch a missile at the Soviet Union. It was the further opinion of the Soviet officials that only maniacs would think that the "left" forces in the United States, as represented by the Communist Party, USA, would assassinate President Kennedy, especially in view of the abuse the Communist Party, USA, has taken from the "ultraleft" as a result of its support of the peaceful coexistence and disarmament policies of the Kennedy administration.

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~Group 1~~
~~Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification~~

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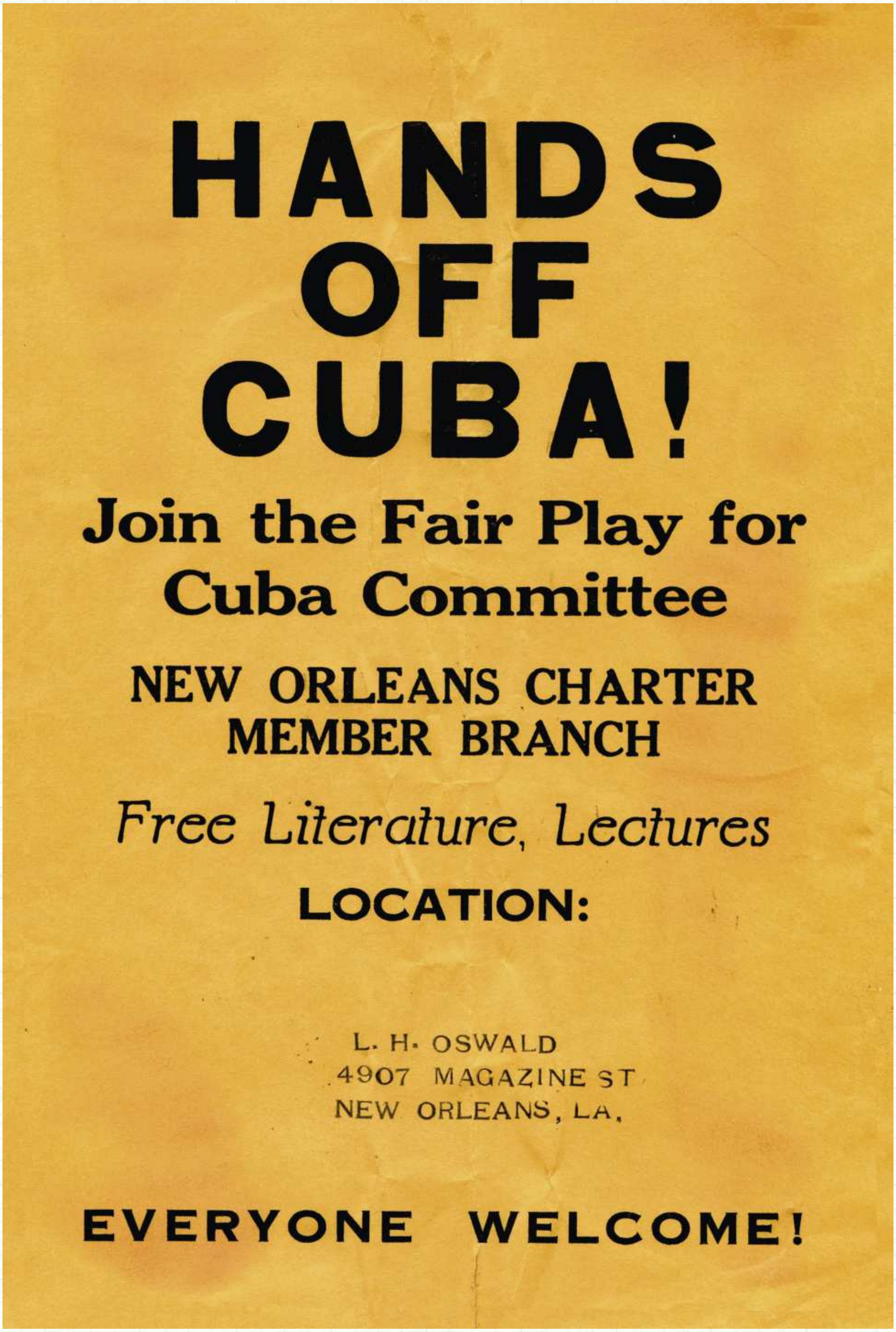
ITEM 10: HANDS OFF CUBA! POSTER



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The Assassination of RFK

In the years after the slaying of his brother, Robert F. Kennedy saw America become a darker place. By 1968, it was a country dealing with the storm clouds of division on Vietnam, race, and poverty. Under the shadow of this brooding political weather, violence and protest in American streets had become commonplace. Many observers felt that the States were not united, but rather tearing themselves apart.

LOS ANGELES
PRESS

ABOVE Victory—Senator Robert Kennedy addresses the jubilant crowd, with his wife Ethel beside him, after winning the key California Primary. RFK had no way of knowing that instead of becoming closer to the presidency, he was just moments from his own murder.

BELOW The death of hope. Bobby Kennedy lies crumpled on the floor of the Ambassador Hotel. Kneeling beside him is 17-year-old Juan Romero, a busboy in the hotel, who placed a rosary in the hand of the dying man.

At the beginning of 1968, Bobby Kennedy had no plans to challenge President Johnson for the Democratic Presidential Nomination in the upcoming election. However, journalist Pete Hamill sent him a letter telling him he had seen pictures of RFK on poor people's walls and Kennedy had an "obligation of staying true to whatever it was that put those pictures on those walls."

Spurred on by the letter and LBJ's clear vulnerability, on March 16, RFK stood in the Caucus Room of the old Senate building and declared his candidacy. It was the same room that his brother had used for the same purpose eight years before. RFK said: "I run because I am convinced that this country is on a perilous course and because I have such strong feelings about what must be done. I feel that I'm obliged to do all I can."

Standing on a radical platform of racial and economic justice, ending aggressive foreign policies, and decentralizing power, Kennedy's campaign caught on with the young, the poor, and those suffering from injustice. On March 31, LBJ announced he would not stand for re-election. On April 4, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated and reactive riots broke out in over 100 cities. This made RFK's campaign more emblematic of hope than ever before. However, it did not please everyone. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's deputy, friend, and possible lover Clyde Tolson told people: "I hope someone shoots and kills that son of a bitch."

On the night of June 5, Clyde Tolson got his wish. Fresh from celebrating his win in the California Primary, Bobby Kennedy was walking through the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. A 24-year-old Palestinian man, Sirhan Sirhan, ran in front of RFK and fired eight shots in his direction.

MANCHURIAN MIND-CONTROL PUPPET?

One of JFK's favorite novels, according to Frank Sinatra and others, was the 1959 thriller *The Manchurian Candidate* by Richard Condon. The book is about a communist, mind-controlled assassin unwittingly at work in the U.S. Elements of the book reflected the real CIA mind-control programs ARTICHOKE and MK-ULTRA. Even the pioneering hypnotist involved with these programs, William Joseph Bryan, publicly stated: "Sirhan was likely operating under some form of posthypnotic suggestion." Bryan, who got the alleged Boston Strangler Albert DeSalvo to confess to multiple homicides under hypnosis, also worked as a consultant for the movie of *The Manchurian Candidate.* Top experts in hypnotism such as Dr. Herbert Spiegel, former Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia College, looked at Sirhan's case and backed that initial offhand insight by Bryan. Strangely, Sirhan's notebooks are full of stream-of-consciousness writing that makes reference to DeSalvo.

Bobby collapsed on the floor. Sirhan was tackled by Olympic athlete Rafer Johnson, pro-football star Rosey Grier, and security man Bill Barry. They reported Sirhan as being possessed of superhuman strength, fighting them off to try firing his now-empty gun again.

Kennedy lay dying. He asked: "Is everybody safe, OK?" Turning his head, he gave a look of recognition to his wife Ethel. Then he closed his eyes and lost consciousness. He died 26 hours later.

As America watched the funeral of another slain Kennedy, no one immediately thought of a conspiracy as there were witnesses and a living shooter in custody. However, it soon became clear that RFK's murder was anything but straightforward and evidence was discovered suggesting that the assassination was most definitely a conspiracy.

Analysis of audiotape of the shooting shows 13 shots being fired. Sirhan's gun only held eight. Further analysis showed some of the shots coming too close together to have been fired from the same gun, proving there had been two shooters. Forensic evidence showed the shot that killed Kennedy was fired point blank behind his ear, no more than three inches away. In fact all the shots that hit Kennedy came from behind. At no point was Sirhan behind Kennedy and never closer to him than five feet away.

Two bullets were removed from RFK, five from other victims, and the Los Angeles Police Department placed one bullet as lost in the ceiling. Sirhan could only have fired eight times, but photos show further bullet holes in a doorframe in which at least one more bullet was embedded. Strangely, the doorframe was removed by police and subsequently lost.

Apart from Sirhan, the only other person at the murder scene holding a .22 pistol was security guard Thane Cesar, who was behind Kennedy. Confronted with witness testimony that he had been seen drawing a gun, Cesar said he had sold his .22 before the assassination. This turned out to be inaccurate. He sold it afterward.

During Sirhan's confession after the shooting, some detectives thought he showed signs of being hypnotized. At trial, the judge did not accept his confession. Sirhan claims to have no memory of the shooting, a claim which has stopped numerous parole applications. He is currently incarcerated at a correctional facility in Sand Diego County, California.

RFK's brother Ted Kennedy gave the eulogy at his brother's funeral, saying: "As my brother said many times, in many parts of this nation, to those he touched and who sought to touch him: 'Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say why not.'"

With those words, RFK, and maybe the last great American hope for a better future, was buried.

ABOVE Laurence Harvey stars as the brainwashed killer designed to enforce a sinister conspiracy in the 1962 film version of *The Manchurian Candidate.*

BELOW Killer or just another patsy? Unlike Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan survived police custody, but questions remain over his alleged role in the shooting of Bobby Kennedy.

Jim Garrison Investigates

Between April and September 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald was in New Orleans. Even to a conspiracy sceptic, his time in the Big Easy comes across as odd. Oswald, the pro-Castro pro-Communist who founded a one-man branch of Fair Play for Cuba, worked for a company owned by a noted anti-Castro campaigner, getting into public fights with anti-Castro Cuban exiles and even appearing on a television debate on the subject.

However, as shown by the address on leaflets Oswald gave out, he did this working from the same building—544 Camp Street—used by the extremist anti-Castro group the Cuban Revolutionary Council. Private investigator Guy Banister, a right-wing extremist and associate of the Cubans, used the same building. Information on Oswald in New Orleans was passed to District Attorney Jim Garrison. He also learned of accusations that Banister and David Ferrie, a pilot with links to mobster Carlos Marcello and extreme anti-Castroists, were involved in the plot to kill Kennedy.

Garrison investigated these claims and passed the information to the FBI, who questioned Ferrie twice before releasing him. Garrison did not pursue the matter until 1966 when Louisiana Senator Russell Long told him "Those fellows on the Warren Commission were dead wrong." This led Garrison to read all the Warren Commission evidence. Finding it woefully sloppy and contradictory, and the conclusion that Oswald had been a lone gunman untenable, Garrison secretly reopened his investigation.

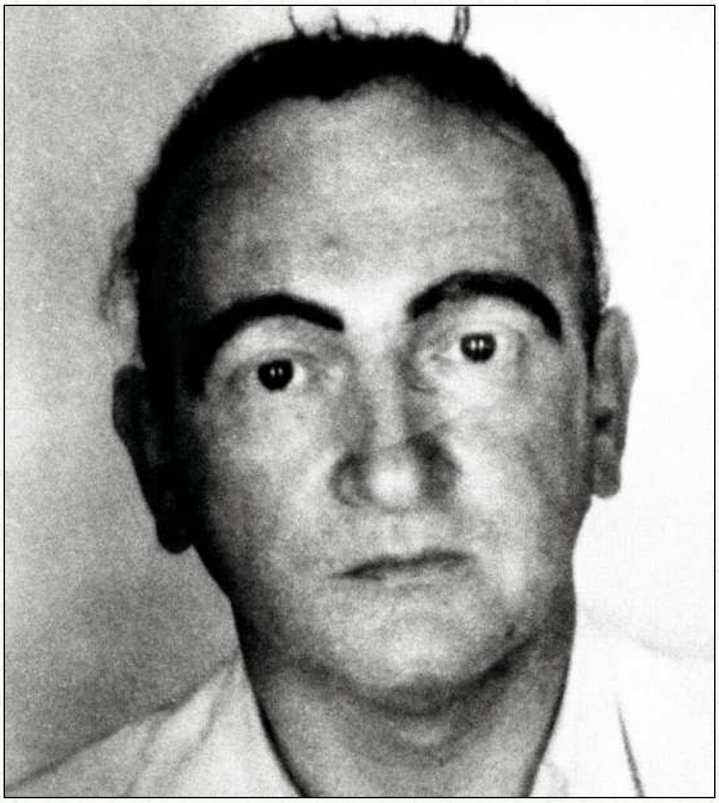
Garrison became convinced that Banister, Ferrie, and a group of anti-Castro Cubans had been involved in gunrunning with CIA assistance. He also believed that he could prove that this combination was directly linked to Oswald and had been behind the assassination. The final piece of Garrison's puzzle was New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw. Garrison believed that Shaw worked for the CIA, and knew Ferrie and Oswald. He also believed that using the alias Clay Bertrand, Shaw had contacted lawyer Dean Andrews asking him to represent Oswald whilst he was in custody in Dallas.

Banister had died of a heart attack in 1964 and a week after news of Garrison's investigation became public in February 22, 1967, David Ferrie was found dead of a suspected aneurism in his apartment alongside two unsigned suicide notes. Before his death, Ferrie had telephoned an aide of Garrison, saying: "You know what this news story does to me, don't you. I'm a dead man. From here on, believe me, I'm a dead man." A week later, Garrison arrested Clay Shaw, charging him with conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy.

News of this gained Garrison international publicity, but also antagonism and ridicule from the press as well as elements of State and Federal government. When Shaw eventually faced trial on January 29, 1969, it seemed to many that all Garrison could present firm evidence of was that Shaw and Ferrie were part of the underground homosexual scene and that Ferrie and Oswald had known each other. The credibility of Garrison's case was further weakened at the trial when it emerged that the testimony of key witness Perry Russo had been obtained using hypnotism and the "truth serum" sodium pentothal. On March 1, 1969, the jury found Clay Shaw not guilty.

It was an unequivocal defeat for Garrison's conspiracy theory involving Shaw. However, some vindication for Garrison was achieved in 1979: Richard Helms, a former CIA director, admitted that Clay had worked for the agency. In 1992, the judge at the trial, Edward Haggerty, said "I think Shaw put a good con job on the jury."

Garrison remains a divisive figure in JFK conspiracy research. To many he was crazy, crooked, or at best completely confused. To others, he was a true



ABOVE Dead men tell no tales. The police mug shot of David Ferrie. As soon as news of Garrison's investigation became public, Ferrie accurately predicted that he would be a "dead man." His death ended one of Garrison's most interesting lines of enquiry.

LEFT Conspiracy crusader. District Attorney Jim Garrison announcing to the press that the assassination conspiracy trial of Clay Shaw would start on January 21, 1969, the day after Richard Nixon was sworn in as President.

RIGHT New Orleans Noir. The life story of private investigator Jack Martin reads like something out of a 1930s detective novel. However, most of his at one-time seemingly outrageous claims about David Ferrie and Guy Bannister proved correct.

BELOW Innocent cleared of conspiracy. Flanked by two of his supporters through the trial, Clay Shaw holds up the newspaper headline which celebrates his being found not guilty of being involved in a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy. It took the jury just 54 minutes to find him innocent.

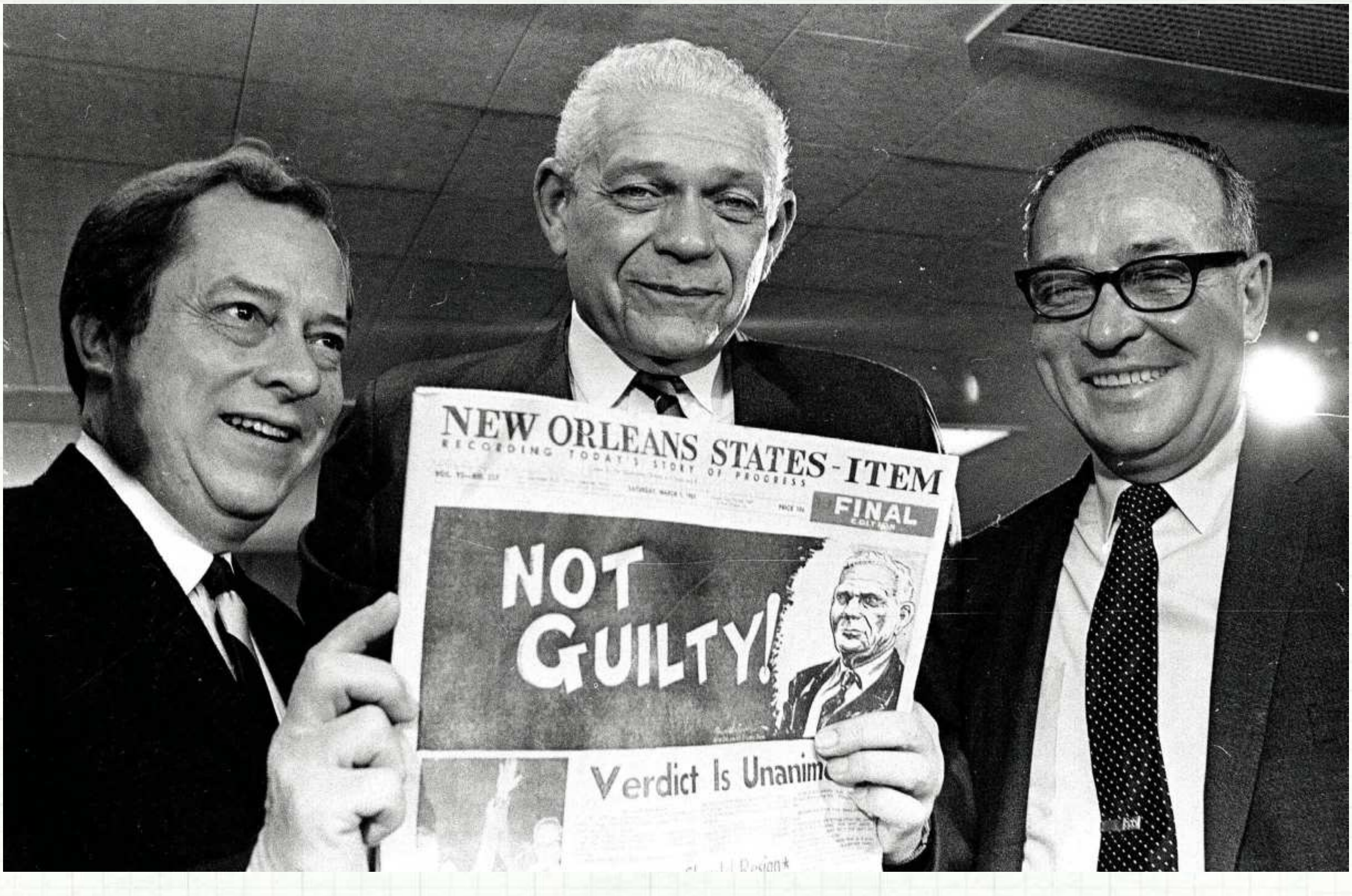
American hero—the man who saw something was deeply wrong and fought against the power of the secret state to expose it, whatever the personal cost.

Despite the Clay Shaw trial being the focus of Oliver Stone's movie *JFK*, few conspiriologists believe he was part of a plot to kill Kennedy. However, even those dismissing Garrison as a publicity-seeking oddball usually agree that he changed the climate for conspiracy research. Opinion polls showed that 20 percent less of the American public accepted the Warren Commission conclusions after the trial. Garrison not only promoted JFK's death as a conspiracy to the mainstream and brought about the first public viewing of the Zapruder film; he did it as an elected official unafraid to point the finger at elements of his own government.

After five decades, Garrison's investigation and the trial he brought remains the only time the American judicial system has attempted to prove there was a conspiracy to kill John F. Kennedy; and the only time the judicial system has tried to get justice for the slain president and expose the stolen history that had been denied the American people. In the end, it is this that is most remembered about Garrison's investigation, and not the failure to convict Clay Shaw.

JACK S. MARTIN

On the day that JFK was killed, low-rent private investigator Jack Martin was hospitalized after being pistol-whipped by his boss, fellow private investigator and former FBI agent Guy Banister. This violent act led to Martin telling police that Banister and David Ferrie had been involved in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy. The FBI contacted Martin on November 25, 1963, but dismissed him as unreliable. Martin's reputation for unreliability may be why Garrison once denied he was a source of information used to investigate Banister and Ferrie. After all, Garrison had called Martin an "undependable drunk." However, despite Martin's resemblance to a character from a seedy pulp novel, his claim that Oswald knew Ferrie was proved correct, as were his claims that Banister acted for Mafia boss Carlos Marcello and was involved with anti-Castro Cuban exiles.



Witnesses - the Trail of Death

Did the shots in Dealey Plaza end up taking more than just JFK's life? Is there a trail of death leading away from the assassination? Conspiracy researchers note that many key witnesses to the assassination and possible subsequent cover-up died in unusual circumstances.

Witnesses also seemed to conveniently die around periods of official enquiry. There were clusters of fatal accidents, suicides, and murders around the time of the Warren Commission, Jim Garrison's investigation, and the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Some conspiriologists have listed mysterious deaths for more than 100 witnesses. Researchers with a narrower interpretation of "mysterious" come up with around 25 names.

One name appearing in both types of list is Lee Bowers, who saw the assassination from a high tower over looking Dealey Plaza. He gave evidence to the Warren Commission about three cars behind the grassy knoll before the killing and two strangers he saw in the area. He also later explained how he had seen a flash of light from the same area just before the shooting. After giving evidence, Bowers complained of receiving warnings to keep silent. On August 9, 1966, he was killed when his car left an empty road and smashed into a concrete bridge.

Journalists Jim Koethe and Bill Hunter searched Jack Ruby's apartment on the night that he shot Oswald. Hunter was shot dead in 1964 by Officer Creighton Wiggins in a police pressroom. Wiggins claimed to have shot him by accident when he dropped his gun. Jim Koethe was writing a book on the assassination in 1965 when someone broke into his home and killed him with a karate chop to the throat. No one was ever caught for the crime.

BELOW LEFT Winston Scott was the CIA officer in charge of Mexico, with important things to say about his suspicions about Lee Harvey Oswald. However, after his death, the CIA ensured his views did not reach the public.

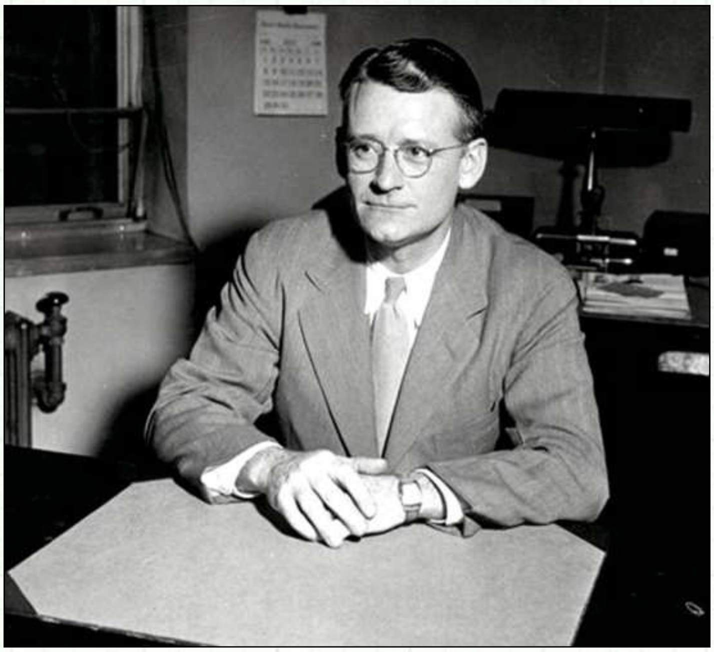
BELOW RIGHT A convenient accident? William C. Sullivan was a former FBI assistant director. He died in a hunting accident just weeks before he was due to give evidence on JFK's murder to the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Winston Scott was the CIA officer in charge of Mexico during the period Oswald was alleged to have visited. When Scott retired, he wrote a memoir dealing with the assassination. On April 26, 1971, five days before he was to discuss his manuscript with CIA Director Richard Helms, Scott died of a heart attack. The CIA chief of counterintelligence James Jesus Angleton came and took all Scott's papers away. When his family got the manuscript back, 160 pages were missing.

William C. Sullivan was an FBI assistant director when Kennedy was assassinated. Although a report he wrote became part of the Warren Commission, he privately doubted Oswald's guilt. In 1977, just weeks before he was due to give evidence to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, he was accidentally shot dead by a hunter. Sullivan was just one of six senior FBI officials scheduled to appear before the committee who died within six months of each other.

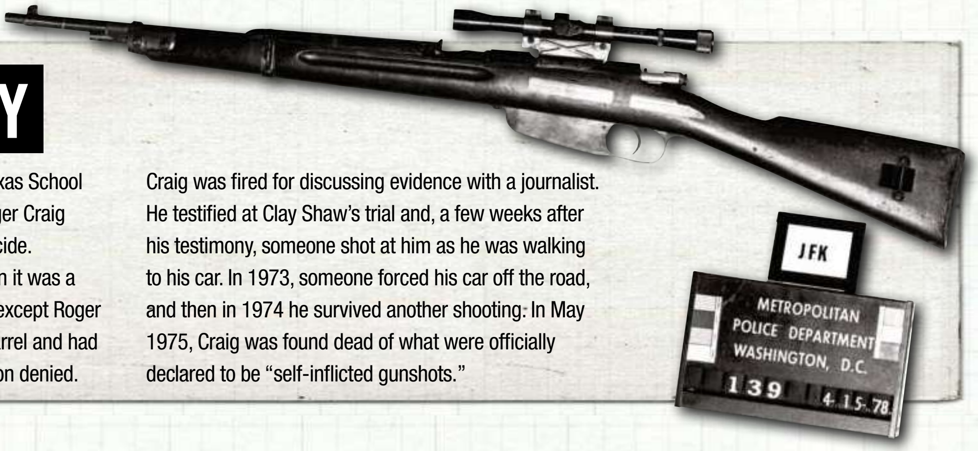
A more controversial name appearing on some lists is Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator and former CIA officer E. Howard Hunt who confessed on his deathbed to being part of a conspiracy to kill JFK. Dorothy Hunt died when United Airlines Flight 553 crashed on the runway of Chicago Midway International Airport on December 8, 1972. More than $10,500 in cash was found in her purse. On White House tapes, President Nixon is worried about Hunt blowing the "whole Bay of Pigs thing"—his code for JFK's assassination—which would be "very unfortunate both for the CIA and for the country." Nixon aide Chuck Colson told *Time* magazine: "I think they [the CIA] killed Dorothy Hunt."

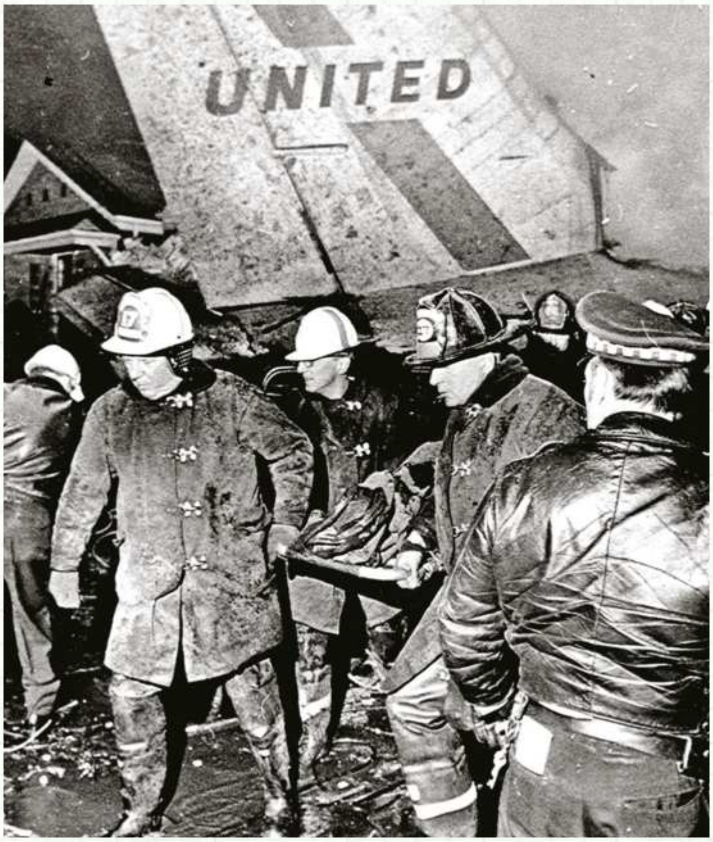
George de Mohrenschildt was the White Russian oilman linked to the CIA and the unlikely friend of Lee Harvey Oswald. He was also a friend of the future president George H.W. Bush, a fellow oilman who was Director of



THE MAUSER MYSTERY

When Deputy Sheriff Eugene Boone first discovered a gun at the Texas School Book Depository, he and fellow officers Seymour Weitzman and Roger Craig thought it was a 7.65mm Mauser rifle. So did Captain Fritz of Homicide. However, it was soon announced that the rifle with Oswald's print on it was a 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano, the type of gun owned by Oswald. All except Roger Craig changed their stories. Craig had seen "Mauser" on the gun barrel and had seen Oswald leave the scene in a car—two things the official version denied. Craig was fired for discussing evidence with a journalist. He testified at Clay Shaw's trial and, a few weeks after his testimony, someone shot at him as he was walking to his car. In 1973, someone forced his car off the road, and then in 1974 he survived another shooting. In May 1975, Craig was found dead of what were officially declared to be "self-inflicted gunshots."





the CIA in 1976–77. In the months before his death, de Mohrenschildt had written to Bush complaining of FBI persecution because he was writing a book called *I Am a Patsy! I Am a Patsy!*

On the morning of March 29, 1977, de Mohrenschildt gave an interview to journalist Edward Epstein claiming that his friendship with Oswald was sanctioned by CIA agent J. Walton Moore. In the afternoon, de Mohrenschildt got a card from a Select Committee on Assassinations investigator asking him to get in touch so that he could be questioned by the HSCA. Later in the afternoon, he was found dead by the police. They believed he had committed suicide by placing a shotgun in his mouth and firing it. On hearing of the death, Select Committee chair Richardson Preyer said "He was a crucial witness."

George de Mohrenschildt's death was not the only one on March 29, 1977 that robbed the House Select Committee on Assassinations of a witness. Charles Nicoletti, an assassin for the Chicago Mafia and favored triggerman of mob boss Sam Giancana, was due to give evidence to the Committee. However on March 29, someone shot him three times in the back of a head with a .38 revolver as he sat in his Oldsmobile in a suburban car park. Was his body another marker on the trail of death?

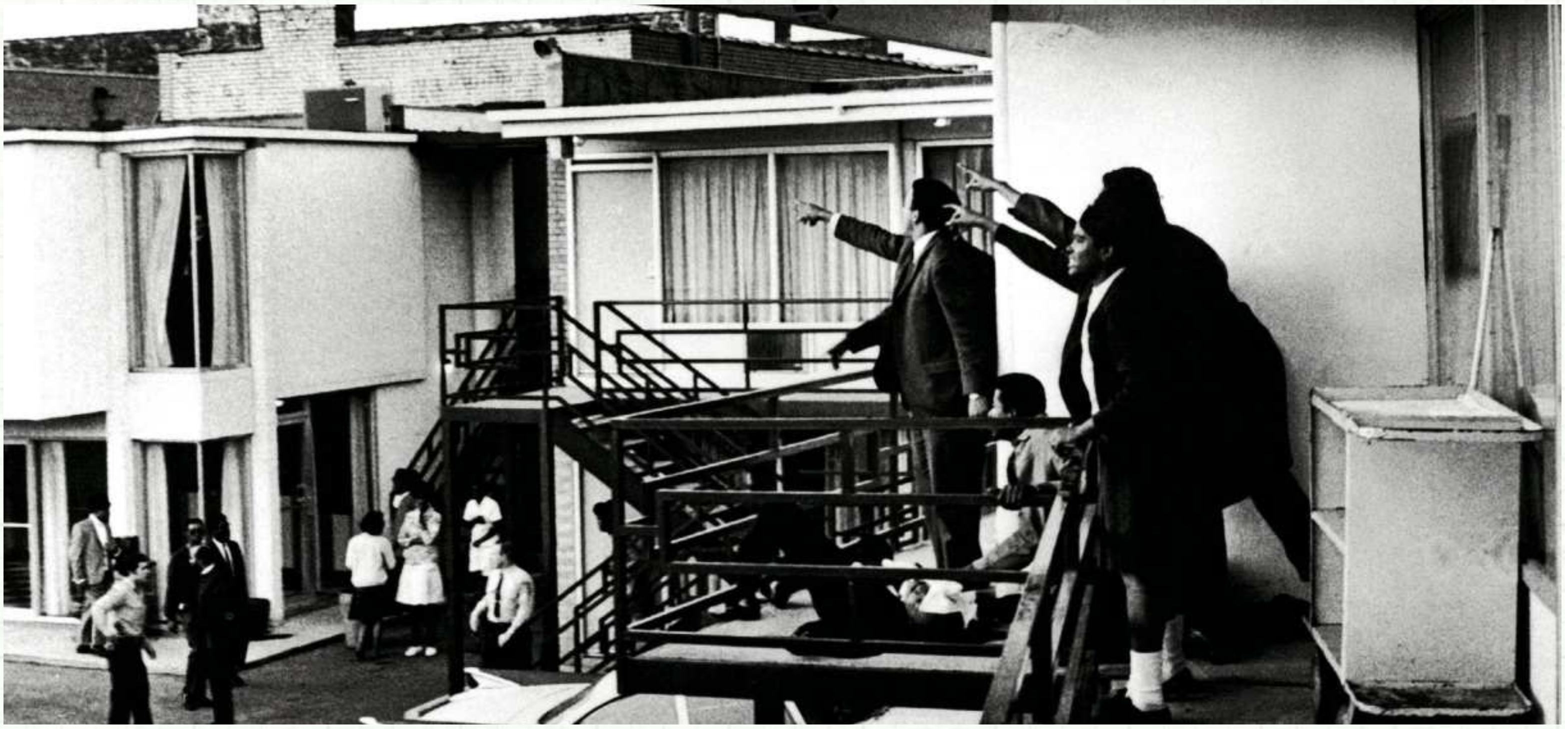
ABOVE The 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle allegedly used in the Kennedy assassination. However, why did some police officers at the time think they saw Mauser stamped on the barrel?

LEFT Firefighters deal with the deadly aftermath of the crash of Flight 553. Surely the CIA would not have crashed an entire plane to dispose of a witness? Nixon's aide Chuck Colson believed they had.

BELOW An engima to the end. George de Mohrenschildt is alleged to have killed himself just hours after being called by an HSCA investigator. Another "crucial witness" whose death meant he avoided questioning.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations

In 1975, the American public did not know that, on secret tapes, disgraced former President Richard Nixon had described the Warren Commission as "the greatest hoax that has ever been perpetuated…" However, if they had known, an awful lot of them would have agreed with him. Public trust in government had been corroded by Watergate, Vietnam, and revelations of FBI and CIA activity against it own citizens.



Even more corrosive to public trust had been the work of other "lone assassins." The highly suspect killings of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 had created a sense that any radical politician was a target. The slaying of JFK was now placed in the context of a trinity of inspirational leaders stolen from the American public.

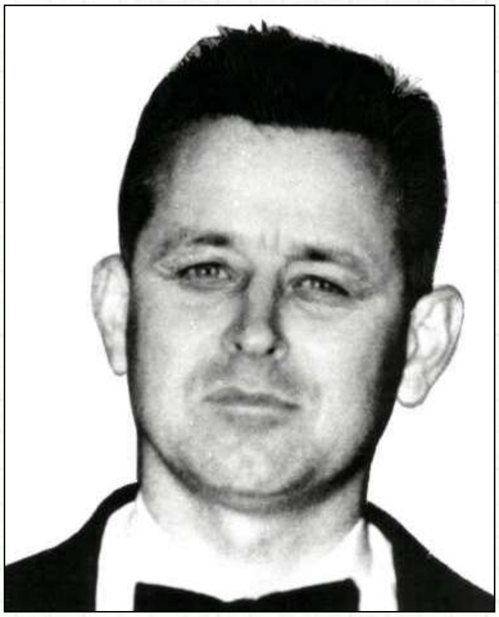
In this febrile atmosphere, the Zapruder film premiered on television, causing a storm of protest and renewing doubt about Kennedy's killing. A poll showed that 87 percent of the American population did not believe that Oswald had acted alone. Congressman Thomas Downing was pushing for a JFK investigation while black politicians were pushing for an official investigation of MLK's death. In 1976, Congress voted to create the 12-member United States House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) with Downing as chairman.

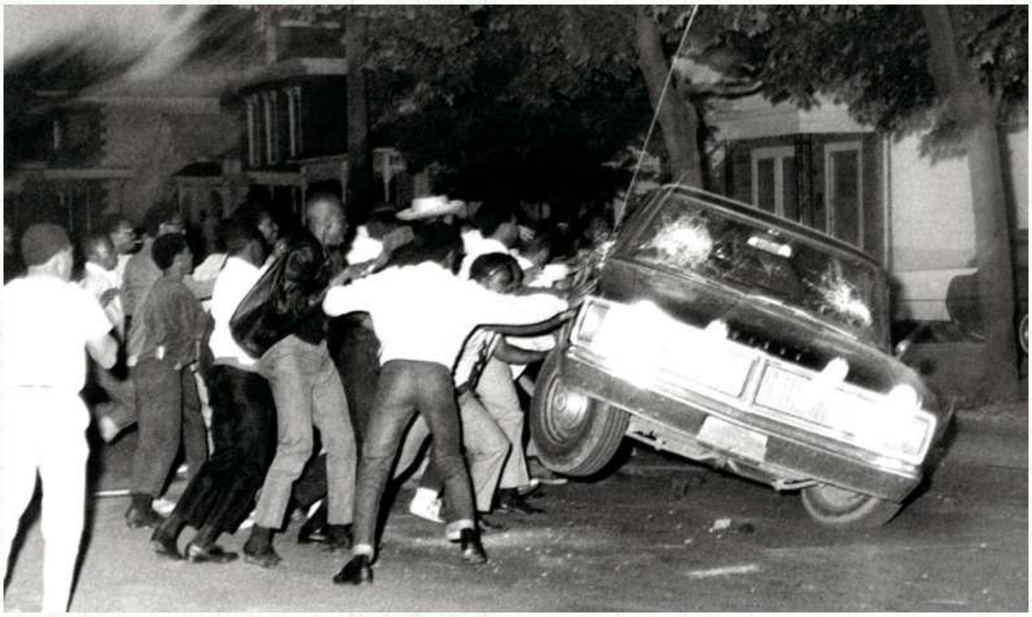
Downing appointed Richard Sprague, an attorney with a record of 69 homicide convictions out of 70 prosecutions, as chief counsel to the Committee. Sprague brought together a staff of 170 lawyers and researchers, demanding a budget of $6.5 million for the investigation. Even to cynical conspiriologists, Sprague clearly meant business. Hopes were high that the murder of JFK would be opened to full scrutiny and the division that a suspected conspiracy over the murder of MLK had caused would be healed.

Martin Luther King Jr. had been shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, on April 4, 1968. The previous night he gave a speech in which he had ironically said: "Some began to talk of threats… But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop… I'm not fearing any man."

King was allegedly assassinated by small-time convict James Earl Ray. MLK's murder led to an explosion of outrage and rioting in more than 100 U.S. cities. Yet after the crime, Ray obtained four Canadian passports and fled to England. When he was finally returned to the U.S., he pleaded guilty to avoid the death penalty and was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment. He recanted his confession three days later, claiming he had been framed by a conspiracy. Many close to King, such as campaigner James Lawson, believed MLK was slain by "someone trained or hired by the FBI and acting under orders from J. Edgar Hoover." Allegations emerged that Hoover had met Texas oil billionaire H.L. Hunt—also linked by many to JFK's assassination—to discuss a solution to the King problem.

ABOVE Death in Memphis. The dead body of Dr. Martin Luther King lies crumpled on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis as his supporters and fellow civil rights activists point in the direction they believed the shot has come from.





However, the hopes of conspiriologists were soon soundly dashed. A campaign of smears was unleashed at Richard Sprague. Downing was replaced as chairman and moves made to dismiss Sprague, who eventually resigned when he refused to bow to the demands of the CIA. It was clear the HSCA was not going to be allowed to ask the probing questions and provide the scrutiny Downing and Sprague had wanted.

Interesting evidence was discovered despite a lack of resources, but the HSCA suffered from conducting its investigation in secret. Many of its own investigators felt the secrecy of the HSCA investigation would mean less scrutiny for any misleading testimony they were given. One new lead was a possible note from Oswald to someone called Mr. Hunt asking for "information concerning my position…before any steps are taken…." Dated November 8, 1963, if genuine it may have linked Oswald to CIA man E. Howard Hunt or oilman H.L Hunt.

Several key witnesses due to be called by the HSCA died before they could give evidence. Amongst these was William C. Sullivan, former Deputy Director of the FBI. In his posthumously published biography Sullivan revealed: "I doubt if he [James Earl Ray] acted alone."

When the HSCA finally reported in 1979, it concluded that Ray had shot MLK and that there was a "likelihood of a conspiracy," but not one involving any U.S. government agency. To many this was a travesty of justice, but to be expected. However, the findings on JFK's assassination were more startling.

The HSCA concluded that Oswald had killed Kennedy. However, on the basis of acoustic evidence recorded by a police motorcycle, it also reported there had been four shots—one of which had been fired from the grassy knoll—and two shooters. Although the HSCA disavowed any idea of involvement by U.S. government agencies, anti-Castro Cuban groups, or the Soviet or Cuban governments in the murder, its report made it official that with two shooters there had to have been a conspiracy—a conspiracy or the wild improbability that two lone gunmen independently decided to kill the President at the same time.

ABOVE LEFT Killer of dreams? Although James Earl Ray was convicted of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, the King family and many others came to believe he was not guilty and that there had been a conspiracy to murder one of America's greatest advocates for justice.

ABOVE Crowds overturn a detective's vehicle in Louisville, Kentucky as a dark storm of anger over the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King rolled across America, leading to riots in more than a 100 U.S. cities.

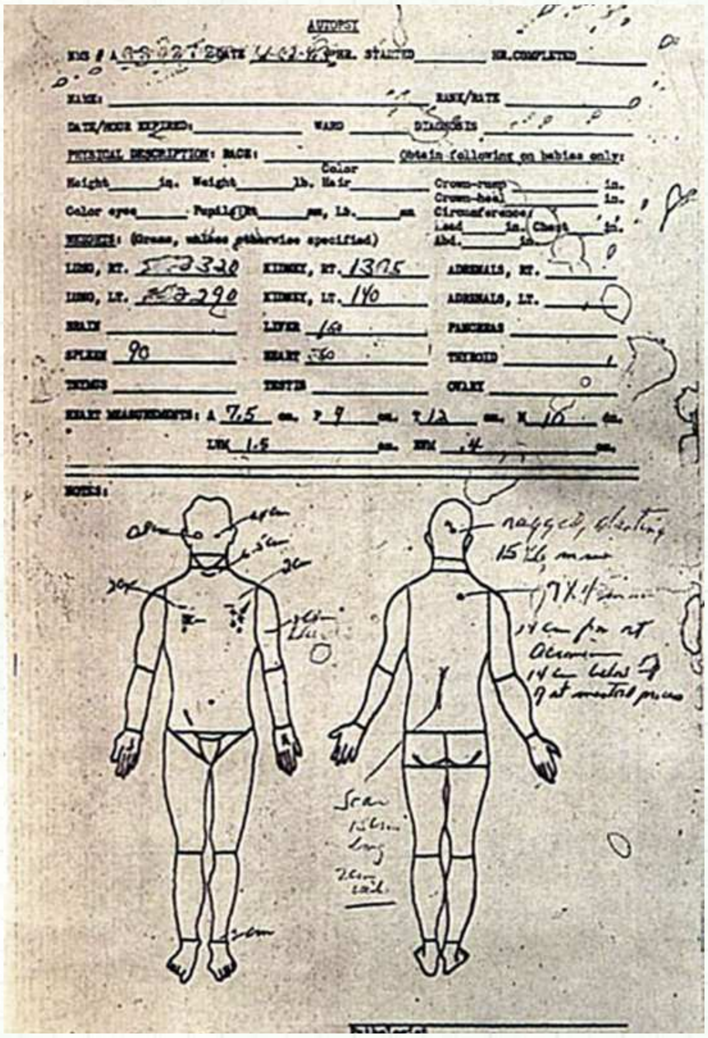
BELOW Hope dashed on the rocks of reality. A meeting of the House Select Committee on Assassinations tries to find the truth about the murders of King and Kennedy. Conspiracy theorists' high hopes for the HSCA were soon shattered by the inadequate efforts it was able to make.

GAETON FONZI, THE HSCA'S OFFICIAL CONSPIRACY THEORIST

Among the staff of the HSCA investigation was journalist Gaeton Fonzi. Even before investigating the assassination in an official capacity, he had written an article that said: "The Warren Report is a deliberate lie. The Commission's own evidence proves there was a conspiracy to murder President Kennedy." Initially, Fonzi held high hopes for the HSCA, but rapidly became disillusioned. He wrote: "There is not one investigator—not one—who served on the Kennedy task force of the HSCA who honestly feels he took part in an adequate effort, let alone the full and complete investigation mandated by Congress." Fonzi went on to produce one of the best books on the assassination, *The Last Investigation* (1993). However, like everyone else, he had to wait until 2017 for all the sealed HSCA evidence to be revealed.

Suspect Evidence and Suspect Suspects

To solve any murder mystery, a detective needs two things—evidence and suspects. In the extraordinarily complex murder of JFK, solving anything is hampered by two major problems: suspect evidence and suspect suspects.



AUTOPSY

A63-272 DATE 11-22-63 HR. STARTED HR. COMPLETED

NAME: RANK/RATE

DATE/HOUR EXPIRED: WARD DIAGNOSIS

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: RACE: Obtain following on babies only:

Height in. Weight lb. Color Hair Crown-rump in. Crown-heel in.

Color eyes Pupils(Rt) mm, Lt. mm Circumference: Head in. Chest in. Abd. in.

WEIGHTS: (Grams, unless otherwise specified)

LUNG, RT. 320 KIDNEY, RT. 1305 ADRENALS, RT.

LUNG, LT. 290 KIDNEY, LT. 140 ADRENALS, LT.

BRAIN LIVER 16 PANCREAS

SPLEEN 90 HEART 350 THYROID

THYMUS TESTIS OVARY

HEART MEASUREMENTS: A 7.5 cm. P 9 cm. T 12 cm. M 10 cm.

LVM 1.5 cm. RVM .4 cm.

NOTES:

ragged, slanting 15 × 6 mm

7 × 4 mm

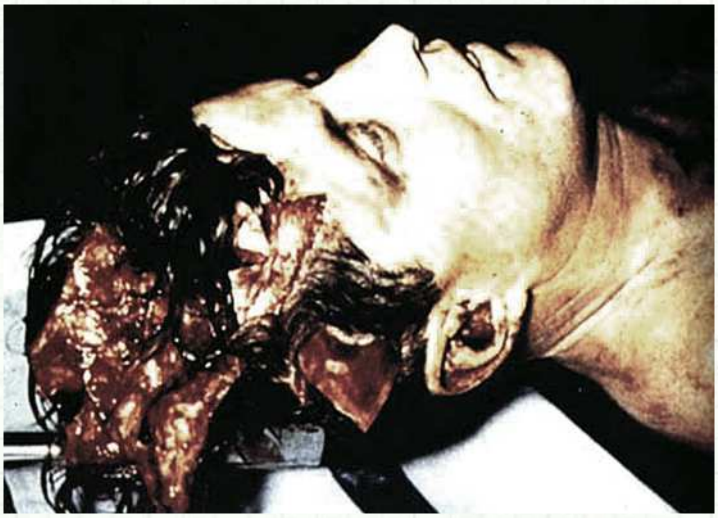
14 cm from rt acromion 14 cm below tip of rt mastoid process

Scar 15 cm long

2 cm wide

LEFT Diagram of lies? The description sheet for Kennedy's autopsy carried out by Doctor Thorton J. Boswell at Bethesda Naval Hospital. However, it does not match the drawings made at the first autopsy at Parkland Hospital. Today, even the official position is that someone has tampered with the medical evidence.

BELOW The President's brain is missing. This autopsy shot showing the massive damage to John Kennedy's head cannot be squared with other photos showing the same parts of the skull relatively free of damage. Something is seriously wrong with the autopsy photos—either some have been fabricated or they show two different heads.



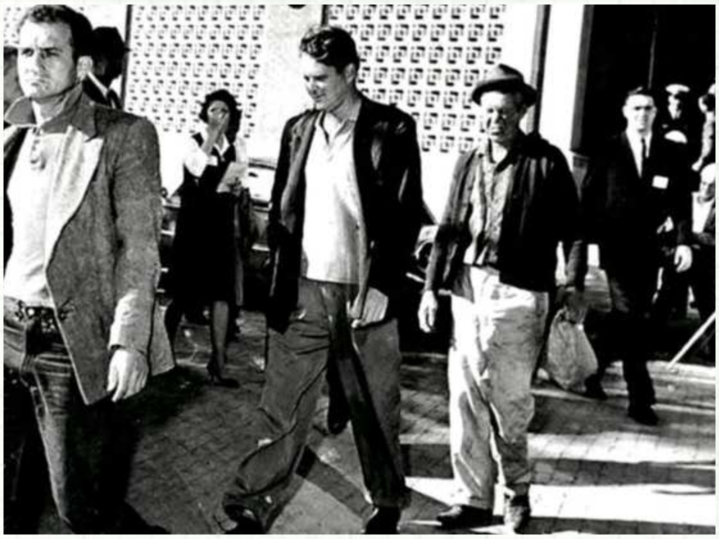
Huge swathes of vital evidence are missing or were deliberately destroyed. Worse, much of the remaining evidence is suspect, hard to trust as it shows signs of being tampered with. One thing the assassination case is not short of is suspects. However, close examination of the reasons why they are nominated as conspirators usually demonstrates numerous flaws in the theories.

Possibly the most suspect evidence are the autopsy photographs. Doctors who saw Kennedy at Parkland Memorial Hospital testify to his brains having been blown out of a massive hole in the back of his head. The autopsy report carried out under military supervision at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland details a different wound, consistent with being shot from behind. The photographs which appear to show Kennedy's right temple intact and the back of his head a leaking mess, cannot be squared with photographs showing the back of his head intact and his right temple marred with a huge hole. Either one of the pictures is fabricated or they are of two different heads. Even the autopsy photographer John Stringer testified that he did not take the photographs.

One bit of evidence that could conclusively prove whether Kennedy was shot in the head from the back or from the front would be his brain. However, the brain is missing. Some claim this is because it was given to Robert F. Kennedy to allow for burial, but other official reports show it being examined after JFK's funeral and disappearing in 1965. According to Douglas P. Horne, the Assassination Record Review Boards's chief analyst for military records, there is "unequivocal evidence there was a government cover-up of the medical evidence."

One of the most striking bits of suspect evidence is the Warren Commission's CE399, also known as the "pristine bullet." CE399 was a bullet found on a stretcher at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Despite allegedly being the magic or single bullet that caused all of JFK's and Governor Connally's wounds, it was practically undamaged and free from blood or tissue. The minimal amount of lead missing from the bullet does not appear to correlate with the fragments left in JFK and Connally.

If the physical evidence is tricky, it's nothing to the raft of proposed suspects involved in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy. Among the long list of those who



ABOVE March of the assassins? The image of three tramps being marched into custody after the assassination has become a black mirror for conspiriologists, reflecting back their own suspicions. Some see the killers of the President, others see three hoboes.

RIGHT True confession? Convicted killer Charles Harrelson admitted to being one of the "three tramps" and one of the gunmen who killed Kennedy. Can his confession be believed or was it a just a clever con by a convict?

have voluntarily made themselves suspects by confessing to being part of a plot are the names Marita Lorenz, Tex Brown, and James Files. Others such as Roscoe White of the Dallas Police force were put forward by their family. Close examination of any of them throws up enough doubt for many researchers to disregard them totally as suspects.

Photographs of three men, apparently tramps taken into custody on November 22, were seized upon by researchers as showing possible suspects. Several people have been allegedly identified as one of the tramps, including adventurer, artist, and Mafia associate Chauncey Holt; Frank Sturgis, a Watergate burglar and anti-Castro veteran; seismologist and alleged CIA agent Charles Rogers; and Fred Crisman, a man linked to UFOs and 1940s sci-fi stories. The situation was so open that CIA man and Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt even lost a libel case in 1985 when he sued a magazine over its claims that he was one of the tramps.

Noted JFK conspiracy author L. Fletcher Prouty—who had served under Kennedy as Chief of Special Operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff—saw the pictures of the three tramps and noticed a figure in the background that he thought was his old colleague Major General Edward Lansdale, on the basis of his stoop and class ring. Lansdale worked for the Department of Defense on activities such as the anti-Castro Operation Mongoose. Prouty claimed he may have been giving the three men a signal.

However, in 1989, researcher Mary LaFontaine found Dallas Police arrest records for the three tramps—Harold Doyle, John Forrester Gedney, and Gus W. Abrams. Two of the men were still living and confirmed to the FBI that they had been in Dallas on the day of the shooting. This seemed to make a nonsense of the claims that the hoboes were the suspects.

Despite this, many conspiracy researchers refuse to believe that the named vagrants are the men in the photos. They follow the view that an FBI agent once shared with me: "If the Dallas police said my pants were on fire and I could see flames…I'd still not trust them to be telling the truth." In the run-up to his death in 2007, E. Howard Hunt further confused things by claiming that both he and Frank Sturgis were involved in JFK's murder. A study of those suspected may tell us only one thing for sure. In the black mirror of JFK's assassination, we usually see the suspects we expect to see.

CHARLES HARRELSON-TRAMP OR TELLER OF TALL TALES?

It might be hard for most people to comprehend, but many individuals have confessed to being either Kennedy's killer or directly involved in a plot to kill him. One of the most notorious confessors to the crime-of-the-century was Charles Harrelson, the estranged father of well-known Hollywood actor Woody Harrelson. While imprisoned for the assassination of U.S. District Judge John H. Wood, Jr. in a Texas parking lot, Charles Harrelson confessed to being one of the three tramps and one of the gunmen who killed Kennedy. He later withdrew his confession. However, Mafia associate Chauncey Holt also confessed to being one of the tramps. Though he claimed his role in the assassination plot was providing fake Secret Service I.D., he maintained that he had been in Dallas with Harrelson. The confessions of Holt and Harrelson are still believed by some conspiriologists.

LEFT General Y. Major General Edward Lansdale was the basis for character General Y in Oliver Stone's *JFK*. It was partly because of what he thought he saw in the background of the questionable three tramps photograph that Colonel Fletcher Prouty accused Lansdale of being in Dallas on November 22.

The Mafia Conspiracy Theory

In 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) became the first and only official investigation of JFK's murder to conclude that the assassination was probably the result of a conspiracy. It stated: "President John F. Kennedy was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy. The committee is unable to identify the other gunman or the extent of the conspiracy."

The HSCA recommended that the Justice Department continue investigating the assassination. The Justice Department did not pursue it. This is not surprising as the HSCA did not identify the conspirators, only suggesting they may have been individual members of the Mafia, possibly working with individual anti-Castro Cubans.

A Mafia conspiracy to kill Kennedy was not a new idea. Ever since Jack Ruby conveniently ended Oswald's life, the involvement of a minor Mob associate had been seen by some to signify the hidden hand of organized crime. Alongside Ruby, the Mafia conspiracy theory had something else going for it: believable motives.

Joe Kennedy had used his influence with Chicago Mob boss Sam Giancana to secure union support for his son JFK in the crucial West Virginia Primary. Joe also persuaded Giancana to help in the Texas and Chicago vote frauds that won JFK the 1960 presidential election. Unfortunately for the Mafia, before JFK was sworn in as the 35th President of the United States, Joe suffered a major stroke and no longer had the ability to ensure his son honored any deals with the Mob.

JFK appointed Robert F. Kennedy as Attorney General. RFK had made a name for himself as Chief Counsel to the Senate's anti-Mafia McClellan Committee where he had humiliated Mob bosses Santos Trafficante and Carlos Marcello. In his new position, RFK waged an unprecedented war upon the Mafia and its minionsa. His determination to tackle their power even brought him into conflict with head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, who had once told Congress: "There is no such coalition known as the Mafia."

JUDITH EXNER-MAFIA BOSS MISTRESS AND JFK'S LOVER

In February 1960, Frank Sinatra introduced JFK to Judith Campbell (also known as Judith Exner.) The two became lovers. However, this meant that JFK was now part of a bizarre triangle involving himself, Judith, and Chicago Mafia boss Sam Giancana. There is no reason to disbelieve Judith's claims about being the mistress of both men. Her travel documents and appointment book from the time provide good evidence, tying in with other sources such as the official log of White House visitors. However, more controversial were Judith's claims to have been used by Kennedy and Giancana to pass messages to each other over topics such as plots to kill Castro. Details of this were first hinted at in 1975, when Judith was subpoenaed to testify before the Church Committee.

OPPOSITE A friend of yours. JFK and Frank Sinatra talk at a formal banquet. The two became close friends during the 1960 election campaign, when Sinatra sang the theme song for Kennedy—"High Hopes." Bobby Kennedy eventually banned Sinatra from seeing JFK owing to the singer's links to the Mafia.

OPPOSITE BELOW Bizarre love triangle. Judith Exner poses with her first husband, actor William Campbell (right,) and actor Perry Lopez at a film premiere. As the lover of not only JFK but also Mob boss Sam Giancana, Judith became the nexus between the Mafia and the White House.

To begin with, his brother's anti-Mafia crusade did not stop JFK allowing the CIA to work with Mafia bosses Santos Trafficante and Sam Giancana on plans to kill mutual enemy Fidel Castro. It also did not stop JFK enjoying the company of Hollywood singer and Mafia associate Frank Sinatra. Actor Peter Lawford had married into the Kennedy clan and was also part of Sinatra's "Rat Pack." This allowed Sinatra access to the President. It was access the Mob tried to exploit, until RFK banned Sinatra from both the White House and all Kennedy family gatherings.

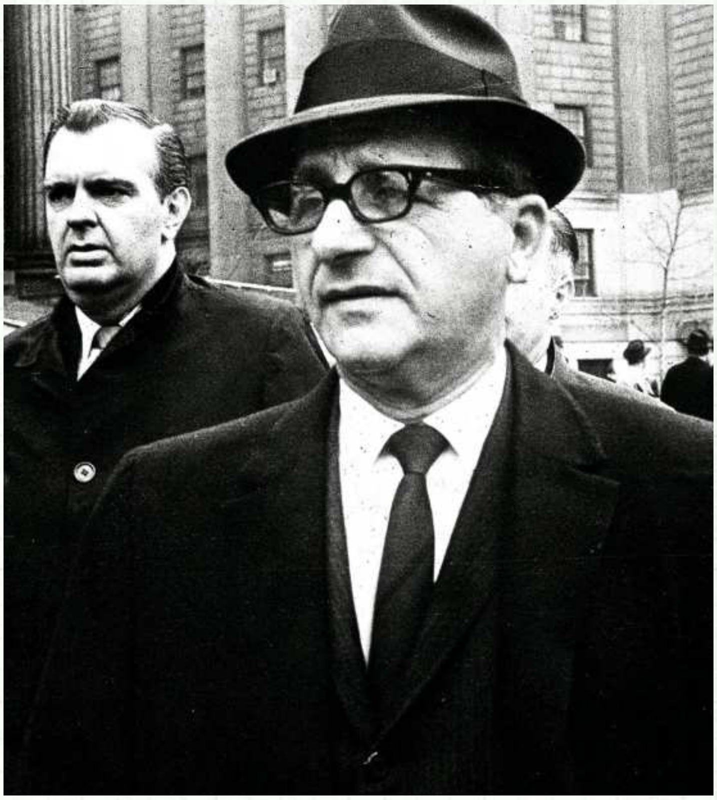
The Mob hated JFK for the change in his policy over Cuba following the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis. They hated what they saw as his breaking of a deal they had made by helping him to get elected. And they hated him for the pain his brother was causing them.

Following the assassination, credible reports were made to the FBI that Carlos Marcello had threatened to take care of Bobby Kennedy by killing JFK. The FBI did not follow up these reports. Santos Trafficante was also alleged to have told an associate before the murder: "Kennedy is in trouble. He will get what is coming to him. Kennedy's not going to make it to the election. He is going to be hit."

Not only did the Mafia have a motive to kill JFK, they had access to the best-organized criminal assassins across the globe. Thanks to their work with the CIA, they also had links with anti-Castro Cubans trained in assassination techniques. And they had men on the ground in Texas. In the days before Kennedy's murder, Jack Ruby contacted both Trafficante and Marcello. Influential mobster John Roselli, a key figure in Sam Giancana's Chicago syndicate, had been flown from New Orleans to Garland, Texas, on November 21. Roselli along with Giancana had worked with the Warren Commission member and former head of the CIA Allen Dulles on a plan to kill Castro.

After the assassination, the FBI concluded Marcello was "not a significant figure in organized crime," earning his living as "a tomato salesman." On this basis, the Warren Commission concluded that the link between him and Ruby was insignificant. In 1976, Senator Frank Church's Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities wanted to recall Roselli to question him about JFK's assassination. Shortly afterward, Roselli disappeared. His body was eventually discovered in a steel drum floating off Miami. Strangely, Sam Giancana was also murdered before he could appear before Church's Committee.

However, many conspiriologists dismiss the Mafia theory on the basis that whilst the Mob might have been able to kill Kennedy, it would not have the ability to hide the conspiracy. It is one thing to kill a president, it is another to destroy evidence and ensure a cover-up in the highest echelons of power.



ABOVE American gangster. Chicago Mafia boss Sam Giancana was murdered shortly before he was due to testify to the Church Committee regarding Mob links with the CIA and his possible involvement in the Kennedy assassination. Was he killed by the Mafia for defiling *omertà*—its code of silence—or by the CIA who feared he would reveal too much?

RIGHT Sealing his fate? JFK signing the three anti-racketeering bills requested by his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, to give the government additional weapons to fight the Mafia. Watched by RFK, J. Edgar Hoover, and others, was this the moment JFK signed his own death warrant by betraying the Mafia who had helped elect him?

The Cuban Conspiracy Theory

When the House Select Committee on Assassinations reported that President John F. Kennedy was probably murdered as the result of a conspiracy, they did not ascribe any organization as being behind it. However, they did make some hints as to the identity of the conspirators, stating that they were possibly individual Mafia members, and potentially working alongside individual members of "anti-Castro Cuban groups."

On the basis of evidence that the Committee had heard, a Mafia and anti-Castro Cuban conspiracy was far from a wild theory. The HSCA had taken credible testimony on the hatred for JFK held by elements of the anti-Castro Cuban exile community and of its links with the Mafia and CIA. It had also taken the testimony of William Robert Plumlee, a pilot and covert operative for the CIA.

Prior to the overthrow of Cuban President Fulgencio Batista in 1959, Plumlee had covertly flown arms to the rebels. After Castro took control, he flew weapons to his opponents. Plumlee worked as part of Operation 40, a CIA-sponsored group of agents dedicated to overthrowing Castro. He had seen the Mafia and anti-Castro Cubans work together on plans to assassinate Castro. Plumlee testified that the day before JFK's murder he had flown key Mafia man Johnny Roselli and two Cubans from Florida to New Orleans and then to Garland, just northeast of Dallas. He believed the men were on a mission to "abort the assassination of President Kennedy."

If Plumlee was telling the truth, the inference was clear. If the Mafia and anti-Castro Cubans knew about the assassination and tried to abort it, then it was likely a Mafia and anti-Castro Cuban conspiracy. However, Plumlee's story was not the oddest tale of Cuban exiles' involvement in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy related to the HSCA.

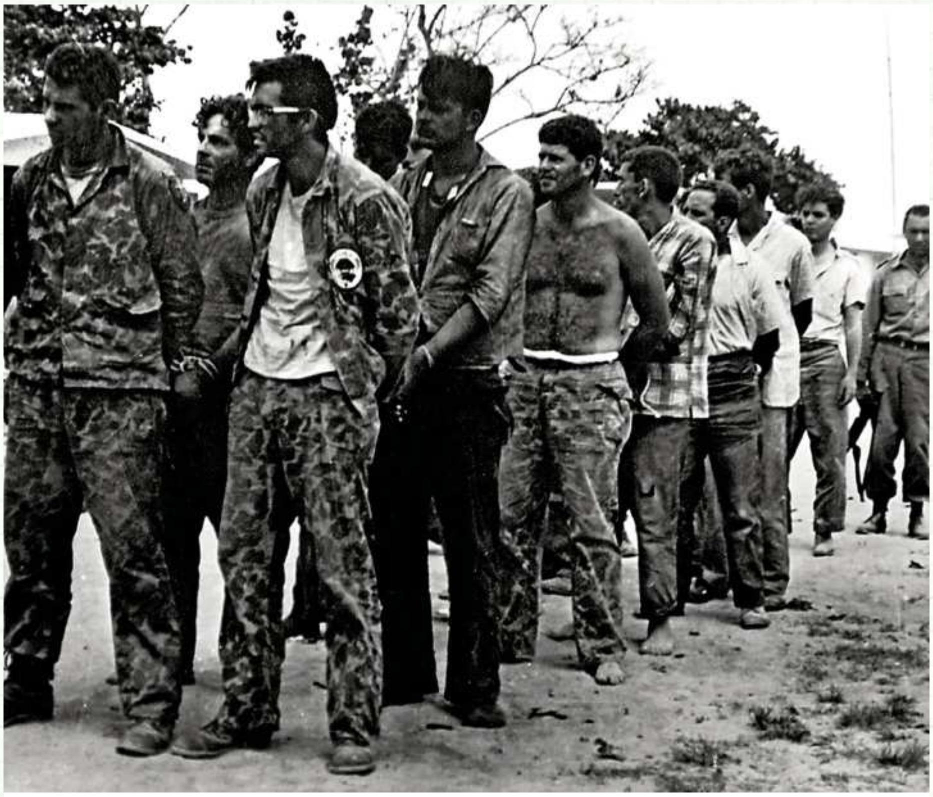
When Marita Lorenz appeared before the Committee, she not only claimed to be Fidel Castro's former lover, but also witness to a plot by former Operation 40 members Frank Sturgis, Pedro Diaz Lanz, and Orlando Bosch to assassinate Kennedy in Dallas. She also claimed the CIA's E. Howard Hunt and Lee Harvey Oswald were involved. The HSCA dismissed her account as unreliable. However, Lorenz's tale contained three elements featuring in many conspiracy theories promoting anti-Castro Cubans as the assassins of JFK: a motive dating back to the Bay of Pigs, links to Operation 40, and Frank Sturgis.

When JFK followed Allen Dulles's advice to authorize a CIA-backed invasion of Cuba in January 1961, he had no comprehension of how it would come to haunt his presidency. Owing in part to Dulles's duplicity, the invasion by the anti-Castro Cuban exile Brigade 2506 turned into the disastrous failure known as the Bay of Pigs. As if the number of Cuban dead was not enough reason for anti-Castro exiles to hate JFK, he later scaled down his support for their covert war following the missile crisis of 1962. This was seen as a betrayal. Their bitterness can be gauged by the number of death threats made against Kennedy from the exile community in Florida and the seriousness the Secret Service placed upon them when the President visited.

OPERATION 40 BATHED IN BLOOD

Even in the murky world of black operations and contract killing for the CIA, the members of Operation 40 present a remarkable roll call of brutal infamy. Although they never managed to kill Castro, Operation 40 personnel were not untainted with blood. Félix Ismael Rodríguez was involved in the summary execution of Che Guevara; Luis Clemente Faustino Posada Carriles is wanted for the murder of 78 people in the bombing of Cubana Flight 455 in 1976; and Orlando Bosch founded the Coordination of United Revolutionary Organizations—labeled by the FBI as an anti-Castro terrorist umbrella organization—that murdered former Chilean minister Orlando Letelier. Before his murder in 1986, Operation 40 member and drug smuggler Barry Seal told an associate: "You know what they used to call us in Operation 40? *Los bastardos*. The Bastard Squad."

LEFT Public enemy number one. Cuban leader Fidel Castro became the top target for assassination by a strange collection of mutual interests, ranging from the CIA to the Mafia to Cubans forced into exile by his regime.



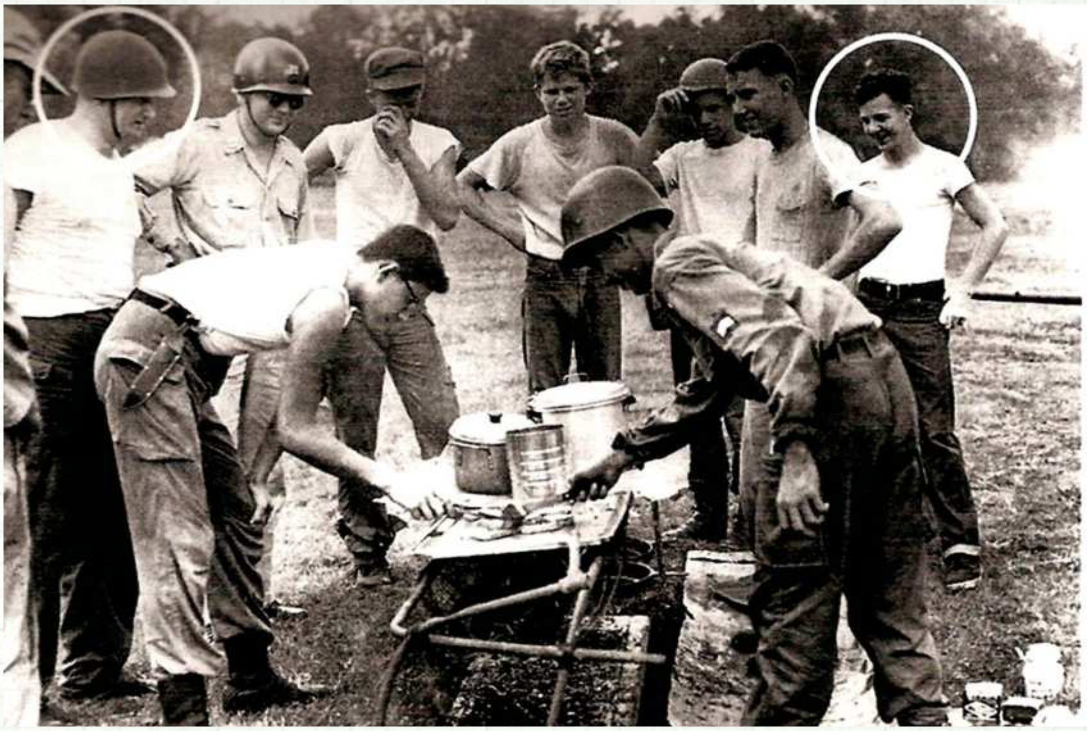
RIGHT A parade of defeat. Handcuffed and defeated, soldiers of fortune and Cuban members of Assault Brigade 2506 are held captive after their disastrous defeat at the Bay of Pigs.

Revenge and the belief that a new president would be more favorable to their cause— especially if it was thought that a pro-Castro communist killed JFK—is a plausible murder motive. The extremist Cuban exile underground also had the means to conduct a plot. The covert CIA-backed war against Castro's Cuba led to the creation of Operation Mongoose which provided covert training and weapons for anti-Castro Cubans to use for assassinations. The majority of field agents who had been in the Operation 40 assassination group were Cuban, and were well placed to be recruited into any conspiracy. Operation 40 was also closely tied to key players in the Texas oil industry including George H.W. Bush and Jack Crichton.

One member of Operation 40 who has been consistently linked to JFK's assassination is Frank Sturgis. The future Watergate burglar was of Cuban ancestry. A soldier of fortune, he had originally trained Castro's troops in guerrilla warfare before becoming involved in the fight against him. One of Sturgis's closest comrades in both Operation 40 and Watergate was Cuban-born Bernard Barker. When Barker's photo was shown on TV as a result of the Watergate scandal, a Dallas policeman recognized him as the man he had seen on the grassy knoll claiming to be a Secret Service agent.

A Cuban conspiracy may make sense of Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald's involvement. Ruby had been involved in running guns to Cuba in the 1950s. Despite publicly backing Castro, Oswald was demonstrably linked to the anti-Castro underground through Operation Mongoose players such as Guy Banister and David Ferrie. Strangely, Oswald had been in Ferrie's Civil Air Patrol as had Operation 40 member Barry Seal.

Would an anti-Castro Cuban conspiracy have the power to organize an effective and secretive cover-up? It's extremely unlikely. However, their allies in the CIA would.



ABOVE Brothers in arms. The picture shows anti-Castro activist David Ferrie (circled on left) and a teenage Lee Harvey Oswald (circled on right) in the Civil Air Patrol run by Ferrie. The Patrol also had Operation 40 operative Barry Seal as a member.

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ABOVE The face of an assassin. Mug shot of Frank Sturgis taken at the time of his capture as part of the team who broke into the Democratic National Headquarters sparking the Watergate scandal. Sturgis was a mercenary and assassin who killed dozens of Cubans before being accused by some of being one of JFK's killers.

The CIA Conspiracy Theory

There is so much credible material placing the CIA in any conspiracy to kill Kennedy that it is almost impossible to come up with a theory that does not include them. Within hours of the shooting of JFK in Dealey Plaza, the CIA can be demonstrated to have begun destruction of evidence relating to their knowledge of, and involvement with, Lee Harvey Oswald. Information not destroyed was systematically withheld—not just from the public, but also from the Warren Commission and later the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

I and many other researchers have filed Freedom of Information (F.O.I.) requests to obtain documents the CIA has on the assassination. Former *Washington Post* editor Jefferson Morley initiated an F.O.I. lawsuit against the CIA and discovered they still hold more than a thousand documents they will not release till 2017. They claim we cannot see them owing to reasons of "national security." If Oswald was a simple lone gunman, where is the issue of national security?

Prominent American historians such as David Kaiser and Gerald McKnight have concluded that there was indeed a conspiracy to kill JFK, which included either senior CIA officials or disgruntled operatives. It is said that when Kennedy was assassinated, the British Intelligence service MI6 believed it was a CIA plot. The French secret service organization DGSE went further in 1968, arranging for publication of the book *Farewell America* alleging JFK's murder was arranged by the CIA and Texas oilmen.

JFK was obsessed with spy novels and counted Ian Fleming as a friend. He felt he knew about espionage, but after the Bay of Pigs he said, "How could I have been so stupid to trust the CIA?" According to a CIA report, President Kennedy said he wanted to "splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter it into the winds." To many conspiracy theorists, this is motive enough for murder. Kennedy had sacked Director of the CIA Allen Dulles and his Deputy Director Charles Cabell—whose brother Earle was the Mayor of Dallas and was involved in planning JFK's trip. In 1963, there were a lot of embittered people in American intelligence worried about Kennedy's plans for the CIA and his winding down of the covert war on Cuba.

A large part of the work of the CIA was assassination. Its agents who have been named as possible conspirators, such as David Atlee Phillips, David Sanchez Morales, E. Howard Hunt, and Frank Sturgis, were all well versed in the sort of operation required to kill Kennedy. Public perception of the CIA's role was evident when Hunt sued a magazine for libel over allegations of being involved in the conspiracy and lost, the jury believing evidence that he had been in Dallas on the day.

If there was a CIA conspiracy, it may have been sanctioned by two of the men tasked with investigating the assassination—Allen Dulles and the CIA Director of Counterintelligence James Jesus Angleton. Dulles was a member of the Warren Commission and Angleton the CIA officer in charge of liaison with it. At the CIA, Angleton had run fake defectors into Russia and conducted operations against the Soviet embassy in Mexico. He suppressed information in both areas relating to Oswald.

ABOVE Who watches the watchmen? Before his assassination, JFK had spoken of splintering the CIA into a "thousand pieces and scattering it to the winds." The level of antagonism between him and the Agency was acute and deep-burning.

RIGHT The silence of the dead. Police officers and detectives examine the body of Mary Pinchot Meyer, the former mistress of JFK. Meyer's ex-husband was a senior CIA official who claimed before his death that her murder was linked to JFK's assassination.

BELOW Shadow in history. Former CIA operative, White House consultant, and Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt was a sinister shadow falling across many dark corners of modern American history. Should Hunt's deathbed confession to being part of the conspiracy be believed?

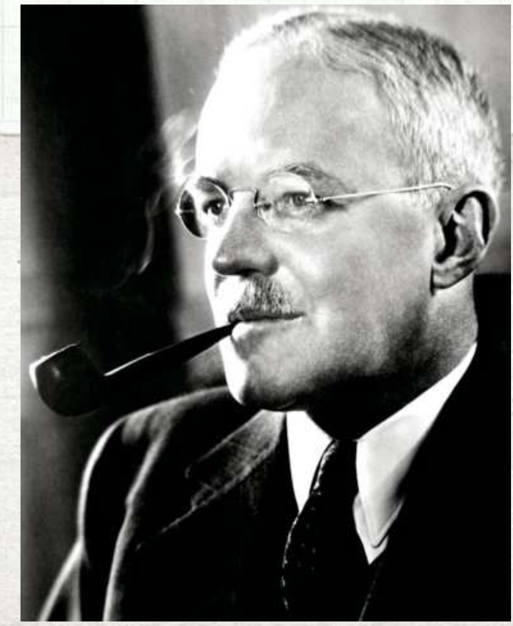
In 1964, after the murder of renowned Washington artist Mary Pinchot Meyer, her sister Tony was looking for the dead woman's diary when she found Angleton in Mary's studio already searching for it. Mary was the former wife of Cord Meyer—one of the CIA's top men—and also the lover of Timothy Leary and John F. Kennedy. Tony eventually found the diary and, discovering it contained sensitive information, handed it over to Angleton. The CIA claim Angleton destroyed the diary.

While walking beside a canal in Georgetown, Washington, D.C., Mary had been shot twice—once in the back of the head and once in the heart. Despite an extensive search of the area, no murder weapon was ever found and the African-American homeless man and day laborer, Ray Crump, charged with the murder was found not guilty. The judge at the trial, Howard Corcoran, had recently been appointed by President Johnson and prevented disclosure of information about Meyer's private life in court. Just before his death in 2001, Cord Meyer told author C. David Heymann that the people who killed his ex-wife Mary were "the same sons of bitches that killed John F. Kennedy."

In another deathbed confession, in 2007, E. Howard Hunt admitted his own role in the "Big Event." He named CIA men David Phillips, Frank Sturgis, William Harvey, David Sanchez Morales, and Cord Meyer as fellow conspirators alongside Lyndon Johnson.

However, this was not good enough for many conspiracy theorists who believe the CIA was not involved in the killing, only in the cover-up of its bungled running of Lee Harvey Oswald as an agent. For them, an even darker force than the CIA was behind the assassination: the shadowed but all-embracing power of the military-industrial complex.

BELOW Puppet master? Warren Commission member Allen Welsh Dulles was director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1953 until 1961, when he was fired by JFK.



ALLEN DULLES
ALL-AMERICAN TRAITOR?

With his spectacles and pipe, Allen Dulles looked more like an academic than the man who shaped the modern intelligence system of the United States. A ruthless innovator, it was under Dulles as Director that the CIA mind-control project MK-ULTRA was initiated, as was the U-2 spy-plane program. Dulles's direction of the agency brought about successful pro-American coups in Iran and Guatemala. The coup in Guatemala saved the American multinational United Fruit Company from having its land in the country nationalized. Interestingly, Dulles was on the company's board of trustees. Would his dismissal from the CIA be a motive for killing Kennedy? Was Dulles capable of that sort of treason? Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg thought so, branding Dulles a "traitor" for his covert support of Nazi enterprises during World War II.

The Military-Industrial Complex Conspiracy Theory

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was a five-star general and a World War II hero who had gone from the top of the military establishment to being the most powerful politician in the world. However, as he left office in 1961, Eisenhower did something unheard of—he used his last presidential address to the nation to warn it of the dangers of something he labeled "the military-industrial complex."

In a speech that has gone down in history, Eisenhower said: "This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence—economic, political, even spiritual—is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government… we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications…

"In the councils of government, *we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex.* The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

"We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted."

In the years since JFK's assassination, the most persistent conspiracy theory has become that the shadowy forces of the military-industrial complex had him killed. The claim is that this was done as part of a military coup d'état by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS)—including its chairman General Maxwell D. Taylor—in combination with the military intelligence and the CIA. Their motivation was to remove Kennedy who they believed was winding down the Cold War. For the military-industrial complex, conflict meant massive sales of hardware and career progression.

Following the missile crisis of 1962, Kennedy had done a secret deal with Khrushchev not to invade Cuba, had signed a nuclear test ban treaty, and was planning a massive reduction in military spending. Possibly worst of all as far as the military-industrial complex was concerned, JFK signed National Security Action Memorandum No. 263 on October 11, 1963, resolving to withdraw all American forces from Vietnam by 1965. No invasion of Cuba, no war in the Far East, and massive military cuts would have cost the military-industrial complex billions of dollars.

The extreme lengths to which the military-industrial complex would go to advance conflict are demonstrated by Operation Northwoods. Developed by military planners during 1962–63, Northwoods proposed that the CIA conduct terrorist hijackings and bombings on U.S. soil that would be falsely flagged as Cuban attacks. Although the JCS approved the plan, President Kennedy personally vetoed it. Strangely, shooting the President and blaming it on Oswald—who could be portrayed as a Cuban sympathizer—sounds like an action typical of Operation Northwoods.

The top echelons of the U.S. military had both the means to carry out the assassination and its subsequent cover-up. They had the best marksmen in the army at their disposal, they could order the 112th Military Intelligence Group to stand down presidential security support, and they could control the autopsy on JFK carried out at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Described by

ABOVE U.S. Secretary of Defense McNamara and U.S. Army Chief-of-Staff General Maxwell Taylor confer with JFK in September 1963 over the latest developments in Vietnam. A few weeks later, Kennedy resolved to withdraw U.S. forces from South-East Asia.

ABOVE The machinery of war. Helicopter manufacturers such as Bell Helicopters were just one section of the military-industrial complex which benefited massively from the billions of dollars spent on the war in Vietnam.

HSCA medical specialist Dr. Cyril Wecht as "one of the most incomplete, superficial, inadequate, inept, forensic pathologically incompetent medical autopsies I have ever seen," the examination of JFK's body was overseen by admirals and generals.

Researcher Stephen M. Birmingham advocated another possible motive for the military-industrial complex wanting to eliminate Kennedy. He pointed out that ten days before Kennedy's death, the President had signed National Security Action Memorandum No. 271, which would have ended the space race against the Soviet Union and led to a possible joint lunar landing program. If enacted, NSAM 271 would have cost the military-industrial complex billions and would have been seen as soft on the Soviets.

Whether or not there was a conspiracy by the military-industrial complex to kill President Kennedy, after his assassination the road to conflict was clear. On November 25, the day of JFK's funeral, President Johnson met with Henry Cabot Lodge, the U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam. The next day, LBJ had signed NSAM 273. This effectively reversed Kennedy's policy of withdrawal and paved the way to America's war against North Vietnam. In December, Johnson told the Joint Chiefs of Staff: "Just let me get elected, and then you can have your war."

The war cost America $173 billion and more than 58,000 dead Americans, while more than 75,000 veterans were left disabled. It cost the lives of at least 2 million Vietnamese. Kennedy's death had ushered in a dark period. With conflict abroad came vast conflict at home. A whole generation was caught up in the divisions caused by the war.

If there was a military-industrial complex conspiracy, it needed not only JFK's death, but also LBJ's agreement to war. Did it have reasons for thinking this would happen? That Johnson could be controled? As many conspiriologists proclaim, the man who became President after the assassination had his own reasons for wanting Kennedy dead.

EISENHOWER, U-2, AND LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Conspirologists such as L. Fletcher Prouty and academics including James Nathan advance the same idea to explain Eisenhower's attack on the military-industrial complex. Both highlight the downing of a CIA U-2 spy plane and the capture of its pilot Gary Powers while on a mission over the Soviet Union in May 1960. The embarrassing incident derailed Eisenhower's planned talks with the Soviets, leading to suspicion that the CIA planned the mission failure. Senator J. William Fulbright said: "I often wondered why, in the midst of efforts by Eisenhower and Khrushchev to come to some understanding, the U-2 incident was allowed to take place. No one will ever know whether it was accidental or not." Gary Powers himself stated that Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union with U-2 secrets may have had a bearing on his being shot down.

ABOVE Unlikely prophet of doom. Former top general President Dwight D. Eisenhower used his televised farewell speech to warn the American people about the dangers posed by the military-industrial complex.

BELOW *Hey, Hey, LBJ, How Many Kids Did You Kill Today?* The Vietnam war tore American society apart, as students and other protestors clashed daily with the forces of state authority.

The LBJ Conspiracy Theory

Lyndon Baines Johnson was miserable as Vice President of the United States. The vast political influence he had wielded as Senate majority leader had evaporated. Instead of being President Kennedy's trusted lieutenant, he was overshadowed by Attorney General Bobby Kennedy. The two men hated each other. LBJ had to suffer knowing that Bobby's aides regularly passed around a toy voodoo doll of him.

In 1963, Johnson felt so depressed that some days he could not get out of bed. His drinking was getting out of control. He knew President Kennedy was preparing to drop him from the Democratic ticket in the coming 1964 presidential election as a result of the possibility of three major scandals about Johnson coming to light.

Jonson's relationship with Texas businessman Billie Sol Estes—who had operated a multi-million fraud against the government—was coming under very close scrutiny. Just as damaging, LBJ's protégé and Senate official Bobby Baker was being investigated for corrupt practices, potential Mafia links, and activities at his Quorum Club where Washington politicians obtained sexual services from women. Author Robert Winter-Berger recorded LBJ as saying: "That son-of-a-bitch [Baker] is going to ruin me. If that c***sucker talks I'm going to land in jail." On the day of the assassination itself, a secret session of the Senate Rules Committee was hearing evidence that LBJ had received a $100,000 payoff for his role in bringing the TFX fighter plane contract to Fort Worth.

On November 22, 1963, barring some miracle, it seemed that LBJ's political career was over and that he was facing prison time. The bullet that brutally ended JFK's life benefited many people, but there is no one for whom it was more of a godsend than LBJ. With the full power of the presidency behind him, Johnson was able to quash further investigation into his alleged corruption.

James Wagenvoord, former editorial business manager for *Life* magazine, claims that based on information they received from Robert Kennedy, *Life* were planning an exposé on LBJ and Bobby Baker. The story was dropped. The issue that would have carried it instead featured the Zapruder film.

As researchers such as Barr McClellan have pointed out, a large amount of circumstantial evidence locates LBJ at the heart of a conspiracy to kill Kennedy. LBJ's mistress Madeleine Brown placed him at meeting with future Warren Commission member John McCloy and Texan oil barons Clint Murchinson and H.L. Hunt where Kennedy was discussed. After the meeting, LBJ told Brown: "Kennedy will never embarrass me again."

Strangely, Mafia associate Eugene Brading was arrested for acting suspiciously in the Dal-Tex Building overlooking Dealey Plaza on November 22. The day before, Brading had been in H.L Hunt's office, very possibly with Jack Ruby. At around midnight on November 21, Ruby visited Brading at the Cabana Motel in Dallas. Brading was later arrested and released over the assassination of RFK.

In 1998, researcher Walt Brown revealed that the only previously unidentified fingerprint found at the "snipers' nest" at the Texas School Book Depository had been identified as belonging to Malcolm "Mac" Wallace. The fingerprint was probably left on the day of the assassination. Mac Wallace was a close associate of LBJ. In 1951, he had been found guilty of murdering John Kinser, the lover of LBJ's sister Josefa. Despite 11 members of the jury at his trial wanting him to get the death penalty, Wallace got a suspended sentence. His bail and legal team were arranged by LBJ.

In prison, Jack Ruby urged researchers to read the book *A Texan Looks at Lyndon* by J. Evetts Haley, which exposed LBJ's corrupt relationship with Billie Sol Estes. Ruby suggested it was central to the JFK conspiracy. In 1984, Billie Sol Estes, who had served prison time for his massive fraud, instructed his lawyer to write to the Justice Department. In the letter he claimed to have knowledge that LBJ had used Wallace to kill nine people, including JFK. The Justice Department did not investigate further.

LBJ arranged JFK's trip to Dallas. With support from fellow members of the Suite 8F Group and oilmen like Hunt, he could easily have arranged a conspiracy in Texas to kill the President. However, could LBJ have arranged the following cover-up?

Yes. Beyond appointing the Warren Commission members, the power of the presidency gave him the ability. LBJ could also have benefited from his close relationship with J. Edgar Hoover. The two men walked their dogs together for 19 years. It is demonstrable that the FBI removed, created, and edited evidence relating to the assassination. Was this done on Hoover's orders to help his friend LBJ?

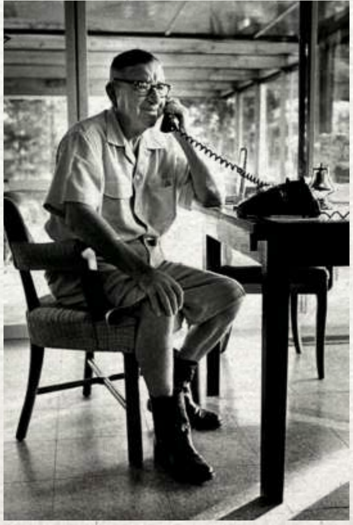
In 2011, suggestions emerged that Jackie Kennedy believed that LBJ and a cabal of southern businessmen were behind JFK's murder. Material on her views is sealed at the Kennedy Library until 2067. However, within a week of JFK's death, Jackie and Bobby Kennedy sent a message to Moscow officials stating that they believed that "the President was felled by domestic opponents."

OPPOSITE Waiting in the West Wing. The Vice President listens as JFK gives the State of the Union Address. Many conspiracy theorists believe no one had more of a personal motive to arrange the murder of Kennedy than Johnson.

BELOW The assassin? Malcolm "Mac" Wallace was a convicted killer and close associate of LBJ. His fingerprint was found on one of the cardboard boxes in the "sniper's nest" at the Texas School Book Depository.

SUITE 8F GROUP THE MEN WHO RULED TEXAS

The paranoid nightmare of many conspiracy theorists, a smoke-filled room populated by top businessmen and politicians secretly shaping the world, is just sometimes conspiracy fact. Suite 8F of the Lamar Hotel in Houston, Texas gave its name to a group of the most powerful southern businessmen and politicians who met there regularly to advance a right-wing agenda, and their own careers and causes. Amongst its members were LBJ, John Connally, George and Herman Brown of military contractor Brown & Root, and multi-millionaire Jesse H. Jones. Suite 8F also represented the interests of oil barons Clint Murchison and H.L. Hunt, Bell Helicopter, Billie Sol Estes, and Bobby Baker. When LBJ resigned as President, Richard Nixon was co-opted into the group. Some conspiriologists contend that any JFK conspiracy must have its origins in the secret dealings of Suite 8F.



ABOVE Spider at the heart of the web. Oil baron Clint Murchison Sr. was an old friend of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and a central member of the shadowy group that met at Suite 8F. Allegations have been made that he hosted at least one meeting at his home where murdering President Kennedy was discussed.

BELOW Bad news. President Lyndon B. Johnson calls the Kennedy family after learning of Senator Robert Kennedy's assassination in June 1968. However, some in the Kennedy family believed LBJ was responsible for arranging the assassination of JFK.

JFK the Film

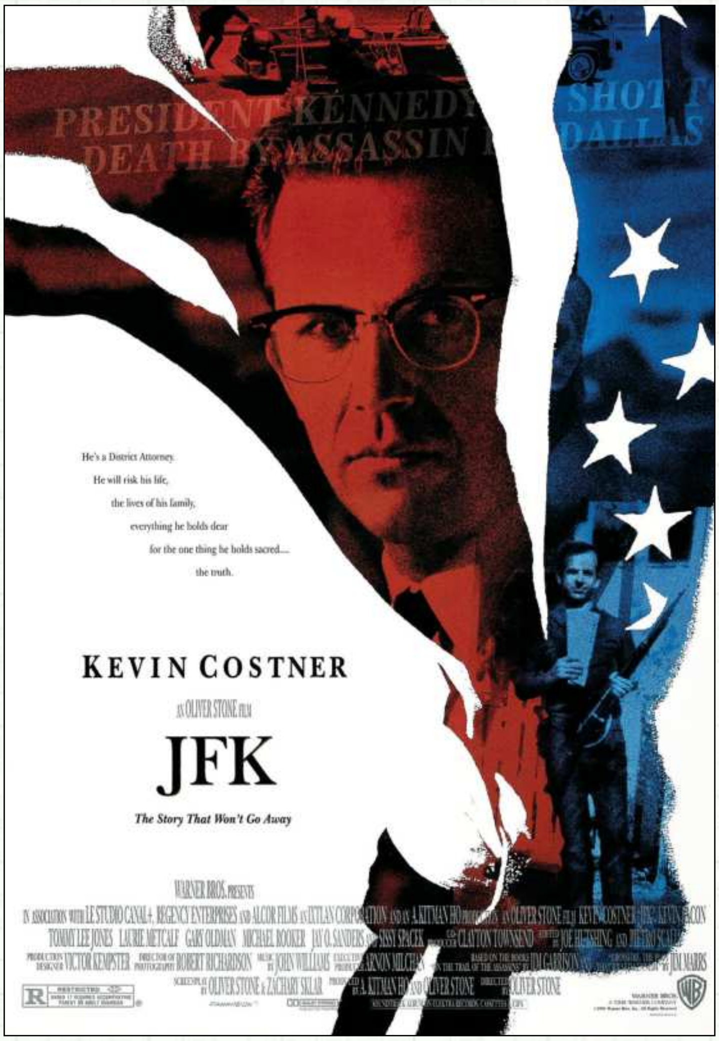
To many film critics, the silver screen is a reflective mirror—Hollywood telling stories that replicate the aspirations, emotions, and concerns of America. To others, Hollywood is hokum, a way of selling overpriced popcorn. However, there is no denying that some films carve out a place in the cultural landscape, giving them real import and allowing them to influence the world they seek to reflect.

Written, produced, and directed by Oliver Stone, *JFK* (1991) became a movie that mattered. Instead of just telling a story about the investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, it ended up becoming a part of it. However, before getting to that point, it faced unprecedented levels of criticism from critics and from key elements of Hollywood itself.

Before embarking on the JFK project, Oliver Stone was best known for his Oscar-winning films on the Vietnam War—*Platoon* (1986) and *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989.) According to Stone, he was attracted to making JFK because "The murder of President Kennedy was a seminal event for me and millions of Americans. It changed the course of history. It was a crushing blow to our country and to millions of people around the world. It put an abrupt end to a period of innocence and idealism."

Stone wrote the *JFK* script with Zachary Sklar, a journalism professor who had helped Jim Garrison with the manuscript of his 1988 book *On the Trail of the Assassins*. Their script took material from Garrison's book and Jim Marrs' *Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy* (1989,) turning it into a taut examination of the lead-up to and later cover-up of the conspiracy to kill JFK. The film is centred on Jim Garrison and his 1969 trial of Clay Shaw. Stone called the fictionalized account a "counter-myth" to the "official fictional myth of the Warren Commission."

Whilst the film was still shooting, critical attacks upon it and Stone began. The *Chicago Tribune* ran a story calling the movie "an insult to intelligence". The national security correspondent of *The Washington Post*, George Lardner, managed to get onto the set and acquire a copy of a draft script. In a powerful, contemptuous article entitled *On the Set: Dallas in Wonderland; How Oliver Stone's Version of the Kennedy Assassination Exploits the Edge of Paranoia*, he attacked it for "chasing a fiction." Stone was stung into an official response to Lardner, but the attacks kept coming.


PRESIDENT KENNEDY SHOT TO DEATH BY ASSASSIN IN DALLAS
He's a District Attorney.
He will risk his life,
the lives of his family,
everything he holds dear
for the one thing he holds sacred....
the truth.
KEVIN COSTNER
AN OLIVER STONE FILM
JFK
The Story That Won't Go Away
WARNER BROS. PRESENTS

Much of the worst criticism was focused on Stone's suggestion that Lyndon B. Johnson was at some level a participant in a coup d'état against President Kennedy. Jack Valenti, president of the influential Motion Picture Association of America, became one of *JFK*'s most virulent critics. Comparing it to Leni Reifenstahl's Nazi film *Triumph of the Will*, he wrote: "Both *JFK* and *Triumph of the Will* are equally a propaganda masterpiece and equally a hoax. Mr. Stone and Leni Reifenstahl have another genetic linkage: neither of them carried a disclaimer on their film that its contents were mostly pure fiction."

Valenti had been in charge of the press in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Visible in the photograph of LBJ being sworn in, he became the new President's special assistant. In Washington circles, people joked Valenti would spin "LBJ dropping the H-bomb as an urban renewal project."

When the film was finally released in December 1991, some critics such as Pat Dowell resigned when their papers would not print positive reviews. After a slow start at the box office, *JFK* began to garner both praise and strong receipts, earning more than $205 million worldwide.

ABOVE Former aide to LBJ Jack Valenti was President of the Motion Picture Association of America and in the forefront of the Hollywood establishment attacking *JFK*.

ABOVE RIGHT Controversial "counter-myth" or "crock of crap"? Stone labeled his film "a counter-myth to the official myth of the Warren Commission." Some critics were a lot less kind in their descriptions even before the film hit the screen.

HERTZ
RENT A CAR
CHEVROLETS

The film resonated strongly with American filmgoers. Widespread outrage was caused by the ending of the film, which proclaimed: "The files of the House Select Committee on Assassinations are locked away until the year 2029." Public pressure mounted to the point where President Bush signed the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (also known as the *JFK* Act). This led to the formation of the Assassination Records Review Board, which has released vast amounts of previously classified documents. By law, all existing assassination-related documents will be made public by 2017.

Despite this huge legal legacy, the film is still unpopular with those trying to debunk JFK conspiracy theories. Vincent Bugliosi, best known for prosecuting Charles Manson, attacked it in his 2007 book *Reclaiming History*. He lists 32 "lies and fabrications" and slams *JFK* as "one continuous lie in which Stone could not find any level of deception and invention beyond which he was unwilling to go."

As Stone found out, when it comes to JFK's murder, everyone who holds an opinion is a critic of someone else.

ABOVE Courtroom crusader vs. the conspiracy. Kevin Costner as District Attorney Jim Garrison demonstrating flaws in the Warren Commission version of events in Dealey Plaza.

BELOW Right direction. Kevin Costner getting direction from Oliver Stone on the set of *JFK*.

JFK VS. THE OSCARS

JFK has gone down in Hollywood annals as having opened to a storm of criticism and abuse, both in terms of fury and scale, rarely seen before or since. However, it weathered this outcry, becoming more than just a box office success. The critical tide turned and *JFK* received eight Oscar nominations. Although winning only two, for Best Cinematography and Best Film Editing, Oliver Stone was rewarded for the abuse he suffered over *JFK* with a Golden Globe for Best Director. During his acceptance speech, he said: "A terrible lie was told to us 28 years ago. I hope that this film can be the first step in righting that wrong." Ultimately, the role *JFK* played in creating greater transparency through the Assassinations Records Review Board may be its highest accolade.

The Wilder Shores of Conspiracy AKA the "No Bullet" Territory

Kennedy's killing was, as Bill Hicks said, "the ground zero of conspiracy culture". The huge gaping wound left on the collective American mind has turned the events in Dealey Plaza into a magnet for crazy ideas. In the world of serious research into JFK's murder, the oddest theories are known as "the wilder shores". They are also known as "no bullet territory".

A list of those that supposedly murdered JFK will boggle any mind with both its length and diversity. During the last 20 years as a parapolitics author, I have received communications telling me the JFK conspiracy was organized by: the British royal family; the Freemasons; Mossad; alien shapeshifters; interdimensional shapeshifters; Bobby Kennedy; the Tavistock Institute; the Order of Elect Cohens; the Fourth Reich; and a dozen assorted occult orders.

The "evidence" given by those offering theories from the wilder shores of conspiracy often redefines the meaning of "scant". Masonic involvement is "proved" because Dallas is ten miles north from the 33rd degree of latitude and the 33rd degree is the highest Freemasonry order. While shaking with disbelief at this, consider the idea that JFK was actually shot by a flechette fired from an umbrella. Conspiriologists diverge over whether the umbrella fired a poison dart, paralyzing Kennedy before the fatal head shot, or whether the umbrella delivered the coup de grace itself.

An umbrella deathblow seems almost reasonable compared to other "no bullet" theories such as claims that Kennedy's head exploded through the workings of a powerful psychic or a faulty alien brain implant. I once saw a theory cause a fistfight, when one conspiriologist announced to another: "Any moron knows that ballistics prove Jackie Kennedy shot her husband with a hidden gun." Bizarrely, there are hundreds of websites backing the Jackie-as-killer theory.

However, the most popular of the shooter theories that screams against rationality involves limousine driver and secret service agent William Greer. Despite film and photographic evidence that convinces most people Greer's hands never left the steering wheel, conspiriologist William Cooper saw otherwise. His extensive promotion of Greer as killer on radio shows has made it a cult belief.

Some of the conspiracy flotsam and jetsam washing up from the wilder shores is less dismissible. Those seeing a Nazi connection to Kennedy's death are at least able to produce evidence that key CIA personnel were deeply connected to former Nazi spymaster Reinhard Gehlen, and that Operation Paperclip brought many Nazi scientists to America after World War II. For example, former head of the V-2 rocket program Dr. Walter Robert Dornberger worked for Bell Helicopter in 1963. He was the boss of Michael Paine, and it was Michael Paine and his wife Ruth who gave a home to Marina Oswald and helped Lee Harvey Oswald find work at the T.S.B.D.

Those in the U.F.O. community who were laughed at for years for suggesting JFK's assassination was related to a cover-up of U.F.O. evidence

ABOVE Was JFK a Mission Control problem? Recently revealed memos from President Kennedy to NASA have made previously wild-sounding claims of a NASA-related motive to the assassination seem somewhat more credible.

LEFT Out of this world theory. Major Jesse Marcel from the Roswell Army Air Field with debris found 75 miles northwest of Roswell, NM, in June 1947. Many UFOlogists have always argued that Kennedy's murder was linked to a cover-up of Roswell and the U.S. military's knowledge of U.F.Os.

got a boost in 2011. A CIA memo showing that Kennedy wrote to the agency's director just ten days before his death asking to see their U.F.O. files was released owing to a Freedom of Information request. Strangely, the released memo seems to back up a leaked document sent to U.F.O. researcher Timothy Cooper in 1999 talking of JFK making "inquiries regarding our activities, which we cannot allow".

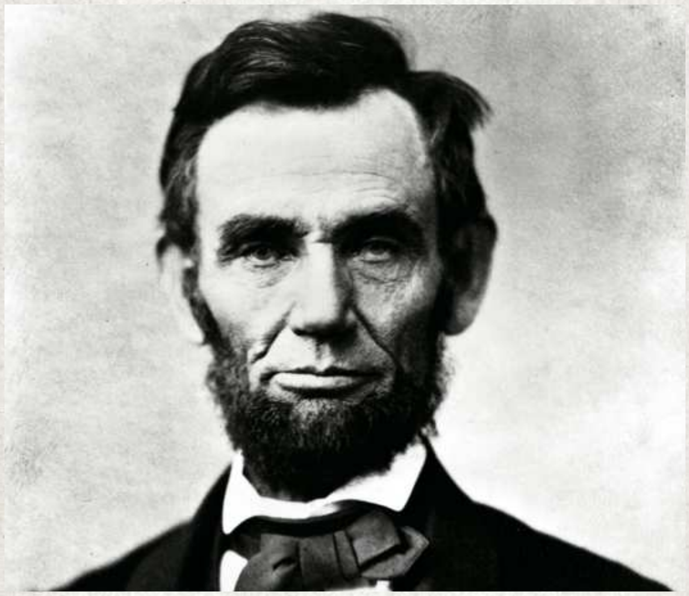
Another released memo also shows that 10 days before the assassination, JFK wrote to NASA to instruct them to work closely with the Soviet Union on space exploration. Researcher Stephen M. Birmingham has always made a convincing argument that JFK was defying the military-industrial complex with National Security Memorandum 271. Signed by Kennedy on November 12, it advocated a U.S.-Soviet lunar landing program. NSM 271 was kept secret for almost 20 years after Kennedy's death.

Marina Oswald has offered many different reasons as to why her husband killed Kennedy. On the one occasion I got to speak to her, the only thing she would say was: "Look at the Federal Reserve." In 1994, she told writer A.J. Weberman: "The answer is the Federal Reserve Bank. It is wrong to blame it on Angleton and the CIA only per se. This is only one finger of the same hand. The people who supply the money are above the CIA." Maybe those who believe that the conspiracy was the result of Kennedy's plans to end the power of the Federal Reserve are not so crazy.

However, the craziest assassination theory comes from a possible conspirator. George de Mohrenschildt, the rabid anti-communist White Russian oilman with links to the CIA and a friend of both George H.W. Bush and the Oswald family, had his own idea about what the real murder motivation was. He always blamed the killing on an argument Lee and Marina had about a washing machine.

SHOTS OF SYNCHRONICITY

Revolutionary psychiatrist Carl Jung once defined synchronicity as "meaningful coincidence" and the Kennedy assassination certainly has some coincidences.
In 1962, J.J. Marric wrote a detective novel entitled *Gideon's March* about a plot to assassinate Kennedy on a visit to London that echoed many elements of JFK's actual death. More widely known are similarities between the assassinations of Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. In this popular list are nuggets such as: both were elected President in '60; both were elected to Congress in '46; both were succeeded by southerners called Johnson; and both assassins were killed before being tried. Unfortunately some of the supposed synchronicities are no more than modern legends; Lincoln did not have a secretary called Kennedy who warned him not to go to the theater on the evening he was shot.



RIGHT Striking synchronicities. The two most infamous assassinations in American history—the killings of Abraham Lincoln and JFK—share some uncanny coincidences.

BELOW "Look at the Federal Reserve." At times Marina Oswald has blamed a conspiracy relating to the Federal Reserve, headquartered at the Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington, D.C.

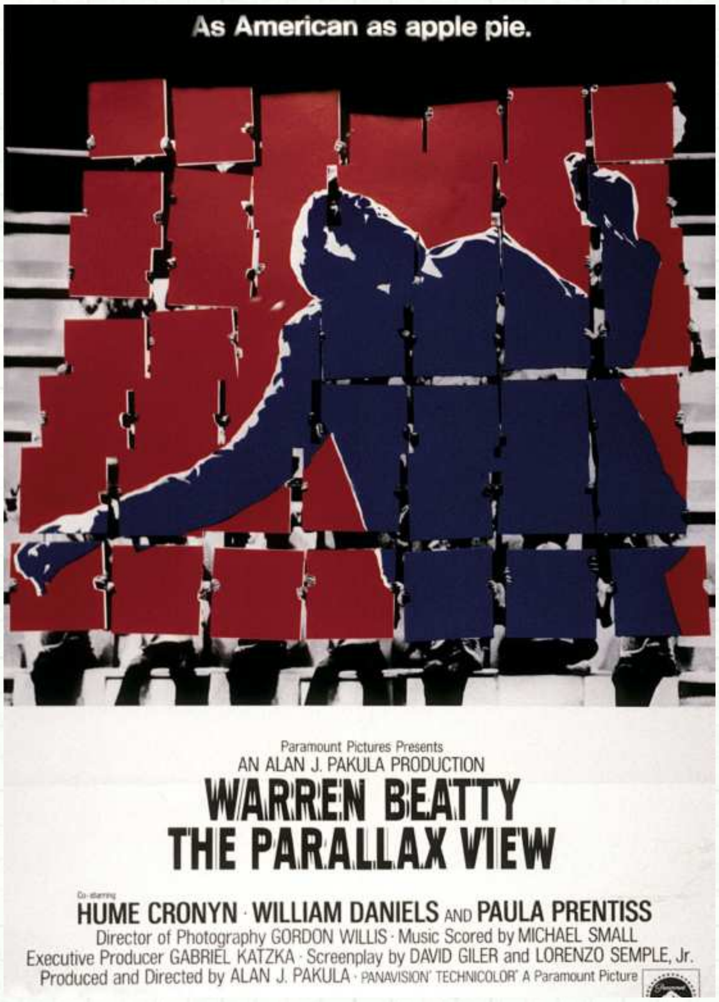
Assassination Stories- a Modern Media Mythology

Historic events regularly permeate popular culture as they filter through the collective psyche of those who have lived through them. However, portrayals of JFK's assassination in the worlds of fiction often mark it out as more than just a historical turning point. The wealth and nature of the assassination stories that his death inspired amount to a modern media mythology. Fiction seems to provide a necessary response to the wound and resonant mystery lying at the heart of modern American history.

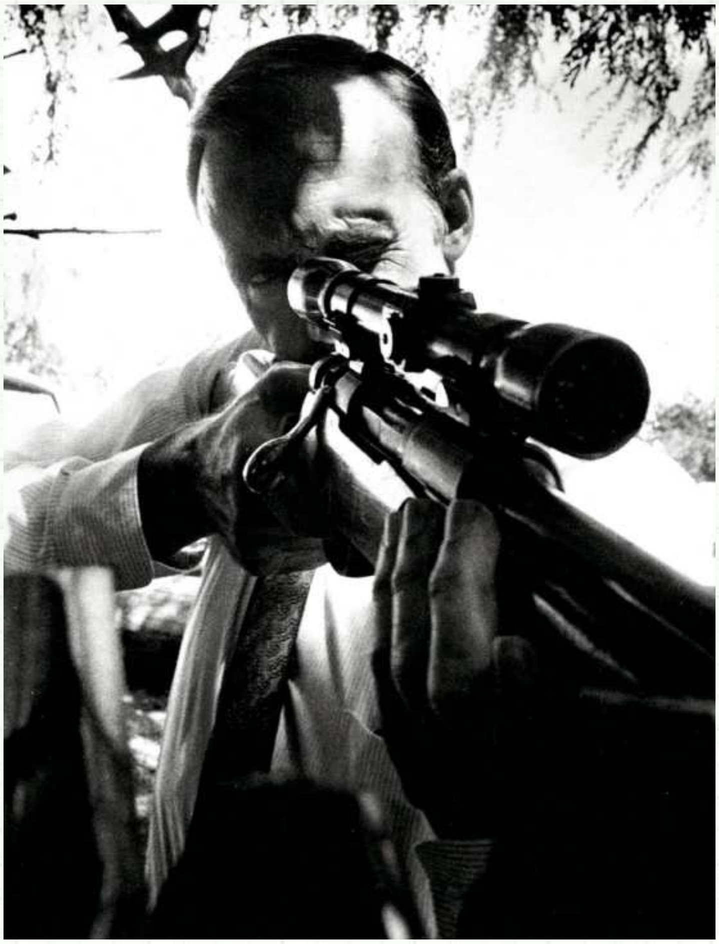
Many claim that cinema is the art form and medium best reflecting turmoil in America's collective soul. Yet, aside from the groundbreaking documentary *Rush to Judgment* (1967,) it took almost a decade for a movie to be made about the events of November 22, 1963. An unsettling mixture of fiction and fact, *Executive Action* was released in November 1973, a fortnight before the tenth anniversary of the killing.

Executive Action tells the assassination from the conspirators' point of view, with the plot originating in a smoky room filled with oil magnates, politicians, and figures from U.S. intelligence. The film ran into a harsh wall of criticism, much of it organized by former LBJ aide Jack Valenti. With some theaters refusing to show it and TV stations banning its advertising, the film closed before the anniversary of the assassination and was not seen again in America for another decade.

However, the assassination of President Kennedy, combined with the murky conspiracies of the Watergate scandal, created a swathe of paranoid cinema releases in the 1970s infused with elements of both events. Conspiracy thrillers such as *The Conversation* (1974) and *Three Days of The Condor* (1975) represent an America no longer trusting of the government's secret men in the


As American as apple pie.
Paramount Pictures Presents
AN ALAN J. PAKULA PRODUCTION
WARREN BEATTY
THE PARALLAX VIEW
Co-starring
HUME CRONYN · WILLIAM DANIELS AND PAULA PRENTISS
Director of Photography GORDON WILLIS · Music Scored by MICHAEL SMALL
Executive Producer GABRIEL KATZKA · Screenplay by DAVID GILER and LORENZO SEMPLE, Jr.
Produced and Directed by ALAN J. PAKULA · PANAVISION' TECHNICOLOR' A Paramount Picture

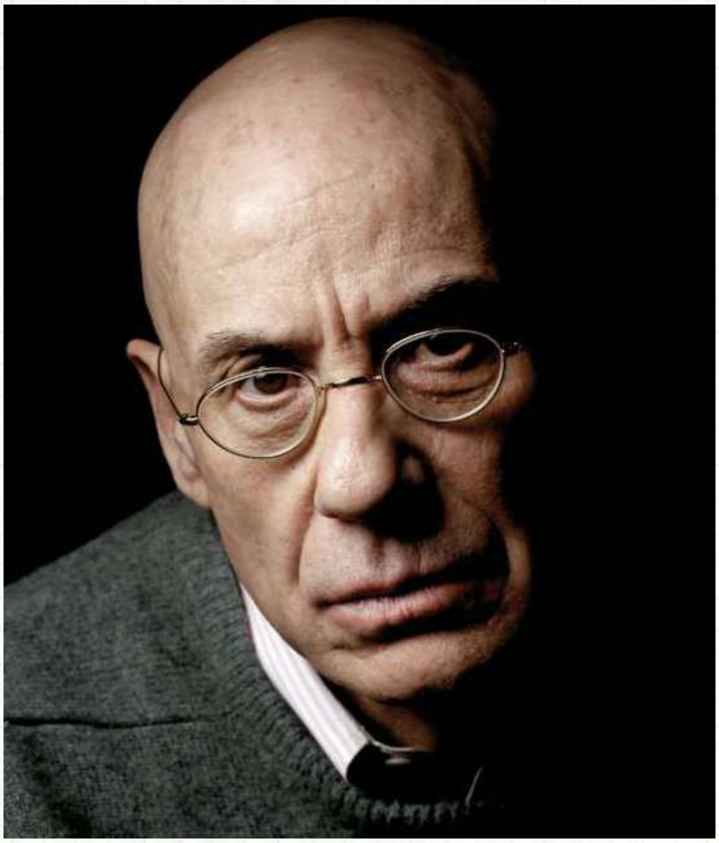
BOTTOM LEFT American Paranoia. *The Parallax View* is a prime example of conspiracy theory paranoia running through the heart of American cinema in the 1970s.



BOTTOM RIGHT Bang on Target. The 1973 movie *Executive Action* became the first Hollywood film to directly suggest President Kennedy's killing was a conspiracy, in its view, one linked to oil magnates, U.S. intelligence, and top politicians.

RIGHT American writer James Ellroy has used the background to JFK's assassinations to produce an acknowledged classic trilogy of great crime novels.

BOTTOM Jeffrey Dean Morgan as the The Comedian from the hit 2009 movie *The Watchmen*.



shadows. The possible highpoint of the genre is Alan J. Pakula's 1974 movie *The Parallax View*.

Revolving around a reporter played by Warren Beatty, his investigation of one presidential candidate's murder ultimately results in him becoming the patsy of another political assassination. All parallels with JFK's murder are intentional, especially when a commission announces that the killer acted alone and hopes the verdict will end conspiracy theories.

JFK's murder may be the greatest whodunnit and best route into America's recent shadowy history, but it is the basis for surprisingly little crime fiction. One author who uses it to explore the confused undergrowth of criminal connections to the secret state is James Ellroy. Across his acclaimed *Underworld USA Trilogy*, he reflects on many characters, agencies, and elements involved in the assassination. The second book in the trilogy *The Cold Six Thousand* (2001) begins minutes after the shooting, exploring a conspiracy involving the FBI, the CIA, and the Mafia for the next five years, including plots to murder Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy.

As the death of JFK is a clear nexus point in history, it has been amply covered in the alternative history genre, notably in the divergent universe of Stephen Baxter's *Voyage* (1996.) The bullets of Dealey Plaza have also inspired more time travel stories than any other single event with more than a hundred films, TV episodes, and stories based around time travelers either trying to prevent or ensure JFK's assassination being produced.

This thriving sub-genre was boosted with the 2011 publication of *11/22/63*, a novel by Stephen King. In the book, a teacher travels through a time portal to 1958 and attempts to stop Oswald from shooting Kennedy. Even before the novel's release, it was announced that it would be made into a film by Academy Award-winner Jonathan Demme.

The idea that Kennedy's assassination is a fixed point in time that cannot—or should not—be altered by time travel has been explored in several *Doctor Who* stories. The world's longest running science fiction television series, *Doctor Who* first aired on November 23, 1963. In TV and book form, the show has made several ventures into the events of the preceding day. In his 1996 *Doctor Who* novel *Who Killed Kennedy*, author David Bishop shows that even a Time Lord cannot prevent the murder from happening, as the Doctor reluctantly helps a journalist and Kennedy conspiracy researcher travel back in time to become the killer himself.

As the passing years have provided distance, writers and filmmakers have become much more willing to indulge in playful depictions. BBC TV show *Red Dwarf* (1988-present) shows Kennedy assassinating himself, whilst adult cartoon *Family Guy* (1999-present) has shown Oswald killing Kennedy as a comic accident. Of course, another word for conspiracy is plot. Even if JFK were not historically important, a plot involving the murder of America's President by shadowy forces would be too good a story not to tell over and over.

FINGERS ON THE TRIGGER OF HISTORY

The distance of time has also changed the way the gunman who had his fingers on the trigger of history is depicted. Close to 1963, the actual assassin was rarely shown and named. In Alan Moore's seminal 1986 graphic novel *Watchmen*, it is only implied that CIA operative *The Comedian* is involved in JFK's assassination. By the 2009 film adaptation of *Watchmen*, the character is shown firing the fatal shot from the grassy knoll. A 1996 episode of the conspiracy-heavy show *The X-Files*, presented long-standing villain the Cigarette Smoking Man killing Kennedy in a way that gently mocks notions of conspiracy. In the same year, action film *The Rock* portrays the identity of Kennedy's killer as still having import, with Sean Connery's MI6 character imprisoned for decades owing to knowing the secret.

The Death of American Innocence-the Legacy of JFK

There is a persistence of grief that many millions in America and across the globe still feel for John F. Kennedy. No other leader's death—even those deaths caused by the violent cruelty of assassination—has ever induced quite the same sense of loss. Why? It is clearly not just about Kennedy as a man or President.

Many believe that grief for Kennedy is actually about him as an emblem of American innocence. There is a sense of loss for a stolen legacy that many feel he would have bequeathed if he had remained President and gone on to win the 1964 election, possibly handing the torch of hope on to Bobby in 1968.

Others find the continuing grief appallingly misplaced. Often these are the same people trying to debunk JFK conspiracies. They will suggest that his place in history is minor and any other president would have reacted to the forces of politics and economics in much the same way. Some actually attack conspiracy researchers for playing with a history that simply does not matter.

Should we treat the past as dead to us? Turn our faces away from the past, toward the future, and just move on from the death of President John F. Kennedy? Poverty, injustice, war, and environmental degradation are problems that are with us in the present. Is it not better to turn our minds to understanding topics such as these rather than trying to figure out the answer to an old murder mystery?

History matters. It is the parent of the present. Beyond the reality-warping nostalgia and the glamor of the Camelot myth, Kennedy mattered. Certain individuals are gifted—for good or ill—to make a difference and set the course of history. JFK was such a person. That may be the exact reason why he became a target for assassination.

Had Kennedy lived is the big "what if" of modern history. There is solid evidence that among the likely "what if" actions are things that would have radically changed America and the world. JFK would probably have tackled the power of the Federal Reserve. He almost certainly would have scrapped the space race and begun a mission to the moon with the Soviet Union. He would have made efforts to cool the Cold War. He would have pulled out of Vietnam and massively cut U.S. defense spending. These actions are the potential legacy of Kennedy that we never got to see.

Kennedy himself was no innocent. Here was a President who knew his 1960 election victory had been achieved with Mafia help. A bed-hopping President who slept with a Mafia boss's mistress. A President who smoked marijuana and experimented with other drugs. Behind closed doors, Kennedy was no reflection of his public image and no reflection of any of the innocence of white-picket-fence Americana.

However, the innocence America once possessed certainly died after 1963. It was not Kennedy's assassination alone that destroyed it, but rather his killing created a chain of unhappy consequences. Kennedy's death sealed the

ABOVE Stolen Hope, Eternal Pride. A mule-drawn wagon carrying the casket of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is followed by dignitaries and thousand of people as it heads towards his memorial service.

LEFT "The Whole Bay of Pigs Thing." Were connections to JFK's assassination a factor in Nixon's actions over Watergate that eventually forced him to resign as president?

THE CONSPIRACY'S OTHER VICTIMS

If there was a conspiracy to murder JFK, he and his family were not the only victims. Beyond the blow to America and the country it might have been if Kennedy had remained President, the biggest victims of November 22, 1963 were Lee Harvey Oswald and his family. His mother. His wife. His two daughters who grew up without knowing their father. In a barely marked, barely regarded grave lies someone who lost his life as a result of the conspiracy and whose reputation was destroyed at the same time. Lee Harvey Oswald, the Marine who could not shoot fast or straight, placed in the official record as the lone gunman who stole the life of JFK. In the final analysis, what lies cold in the grave alongside Oswald is always the first victim of any conspiracy—the truth.

TOP Burried Truth. The simple grave of Lee Harvey Oswald at the Shannon Rose Hill Memorial Park in Fort Worth, Texas.

certainty of the Vietnam War and it was this conflict that ultimately cost America much of the innocence it had once enjoyed.

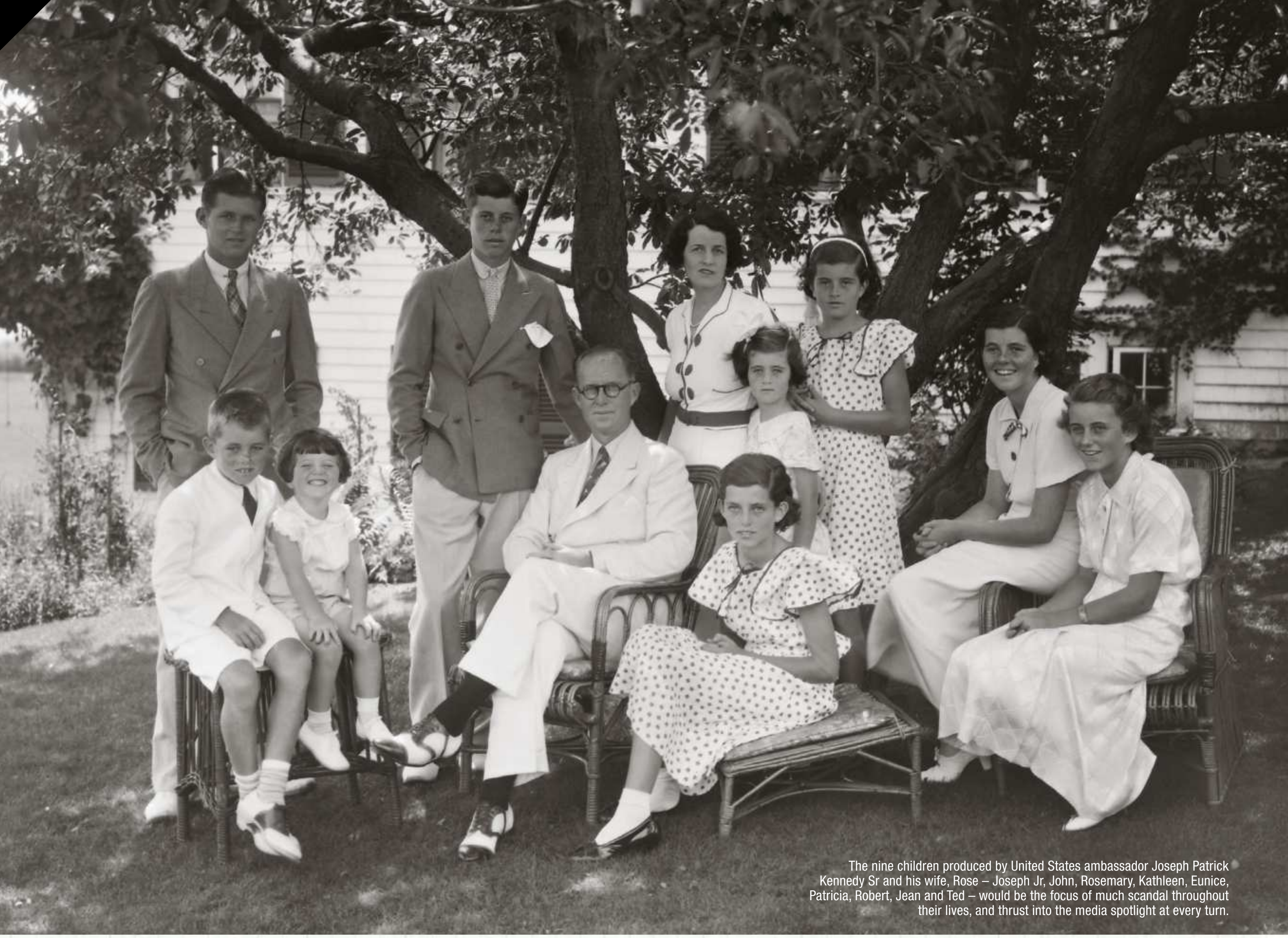
If Kennedy had lived, two certain and fully provable conspiracies—the killings of RFK and Martin Luther King Jr.—are unlikely to have come to pass. Together, the unholy trinity of these assassinations wounded the American psyche more grievously than JFK's individual murder. It was not just the execution of a single President, but also the destruction of a generation of inspirational leadership.

The final nail in the coffin for American innocence and the American people trusting their government came with Watergate. Many U.S. citizens believe there was a conspiracy involving their own government to assassinate JFK, but all Americans know Nixon abused his power and lied to them.

However, many researchers believe the unfolding of Watergate is intrinsically linked to the events of Dealey Plaza. E. Howard Hunt, who organized the Watergate break-in, and the Cuban burglars who committed it are tied beyond doubt to the players in any conspiracy to kill JFK. Just before 18 minutes of crucial White House tape recordings were wiped, Nixon called the Warren Commission the "greatest hoax" and stated that the burglary opened up the "whole Bay of Pigs thing"—his phrase for the assassination. Did the bullets fired on November 22, 1963, ultimately end two presidencies?

We continue to live in the temporal shadow of Dallas. Great American comedian Bill Hicks made JFK's assassination and the cover-up of inconvenient evidence suggesting a conspiracy the focus of many of his most powerful routines. He articulated not just a sense of America's stolen innocence but also the stealing of the hope Kennedy represented. However many years passed, he was going to stay angry and keep demanding the truth. The shots that rang out in Dealey Plaza were still echoing for Bill Hicks. They still echo for millions of others too.

ABOVE There is a Light That Never Goes Out. An eternal flame burns at the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. His slain brother Bobby is also interred at Arlington. The bullets of conspiracy have failed to silence the inspiring message of hope both murdered Kennedy brothers give to Americans across the generations.



The nine children produced by United States ambassador Joseph Patrick Kennedy Sr and his wife, Rose – Joseph Jr, John, Rosemary, Kathleen, Eunice, Patricia, Robert, Jean and Ted – would be the focus of much scandal throughout their lives, and thrust into the media spotlight at every turn.

The Highs and Lows of the Kennedy Legacy

Forever immortalized by the events that sensationalized the Kennedy name, their legacy remains at the heart of American history.

Prominent in politics, public service and business, the Kennedy family has been the closest thing the US has ever had to royalty. Only until recently (2011) had a Kennedy been in office every year since 1947. The descendants of Irish Catholic immigrants who fled to Boston after the Great Famine, the Kennedy legacy thrived, producing a president, three senators, an ambassador and multiple other representatives, both at the federal and state level, epitomizing the 'American Dream' for the aspiring and upwardly mobile. But with great success came great travesty, and the family faced many euphoric highs and devastating lows in the public eye—so much so that the myth of a family curse was born out of the Kennedy family's many years of sorrow and heartache.

Long before the days of the rumored 'Kennedy Curse' there was much for the family to celebrate, beginning in 1849 when Patrick Kennedy, the third-born son of Irish farmers, fled from a poverty-stricken farming town in County Wexford, Ireland, and emigrated to East Boston, Massachusetts. The same year he arrived in the US, he married Bridget Murphy. They had their last of five children, Patrick Joseph 'PJ' Kennedy, in 1858. Ten months later, the 35-year-old father died from Cholera.

PJ bloomed into a wealthy businessman and political party representative, who married Margaret Augusta Hickey and produced four children. Their first child, Joseph Patrick, was born in 1888, and despite being the descendant of an Irish immigrant, triumphed against the odds and graduated from the prestigious Harvard University in 1912 with a degree in economics. Two years later, already a successful entrepreneur and the youngest bank president in America, he was married to Rosemary Elizabeth Fitzgerald after a courtship of several years. Together the pair created the Kennedy unit many people associate with the infamous family name today.

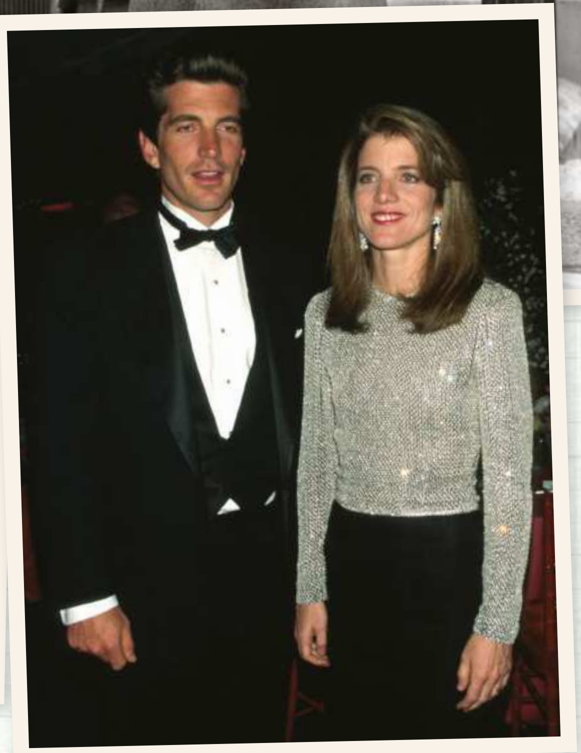
But despite a promising start with two healthy sons, Joseph Patrick Jr and John Fitzpatrick, Rose and her first daughter, who she named after herself, experienced great tragedy. In 1918, Rose Marie 'Rosemary' was born with learning difficulties as a result of being starved of oxygen during the first moments of her life. When Rose went into labour, the nurse forced the baby back into the birthing canal to await the doctor who was busy attending to other patients in the area as a result of the influenza breakout. Such practices meant that the first of the female Kennedy siblings, Rosemary, was born mentally challenged.

Rose gave birth to six more healthy children. Nonetheless the eldest daughter's increasingly erratic behavior and inability to live up to the expectations the Kennedy parents placed on their children, was somewhat troublesome for her father, who later feared that Rosemary could put his son's path to political greatness in jeopardy. In 1938, Joseph's political career peaked when President Franklin Roosevelt appointed him United States ambassador to the Court of St James's. The pair had met after World War I had commenced. Roosevelt, the assistant secretary of the Navy, and Joseph, an assistant manager of a Bethlehem Steel shipyard in Massachusetts (which provided materials to make transports and warships), became close allies, and their friendship had deepened by Joseph's loyalty to Roosevelt when he campaigned for and won presidency in 1932.

Joseph's new role in the UK meant he was the president's representative, and while at first his charm was appreciated by the British people, his isolationist ideologies soon made him an undesired politician. When Joseph urged that America should stay out of the troubles brewing between the UK and Germany under Hitler's reign, the press painted him in an unflattering light as a potential president. After war became an inevitable solution to the mounting tensions between the UK and Germany, Joseph was forced to resign from his post as it became clear that he was out of tune with the American president's policies. His dreams of becoming president of the United States were dashed, and the floodgates for tragedy in the Kennedy dynasty opened.

At the age of only 23, Rosemary was lobotomized by order of her father. The procedure, carried out by Dr Walter Freeman and James Watts failed, leaving her unable to speak clearly and with the mental capacity of a two year old. Her father sent her to a psychiatric hospital in upstate New York where her family were prevented from visiting her for decades by Joseph. With his bid for presidency now dashed, it was Joseph Patrick Jr who became his father's next big hope for a life of presidency. A US Navy bomber pilot, he died in an aircraft explosion in 1944 at the age of 29.

In 1946, the JPK Jr Foundation was established. The first charity of its kind, it focused on caring for the mentally handicapped. Eunice Kennedy was made a trustee in 1947. In 1948, Joseph and Rose's daughter, Kathleen Kennedy Cavendish, died in a plane crash over France. Following his younger brother's death, John F Kennedy became the subject of his father's presidential expectations. It was an expectation that would not fail. But first John would go on to triumph in the world of writing before he triumphed the world of politics. In 1957, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his book *Profiles in Courage* (a volume of short political biographies). In January 1961, John became the 35th president of the United States.

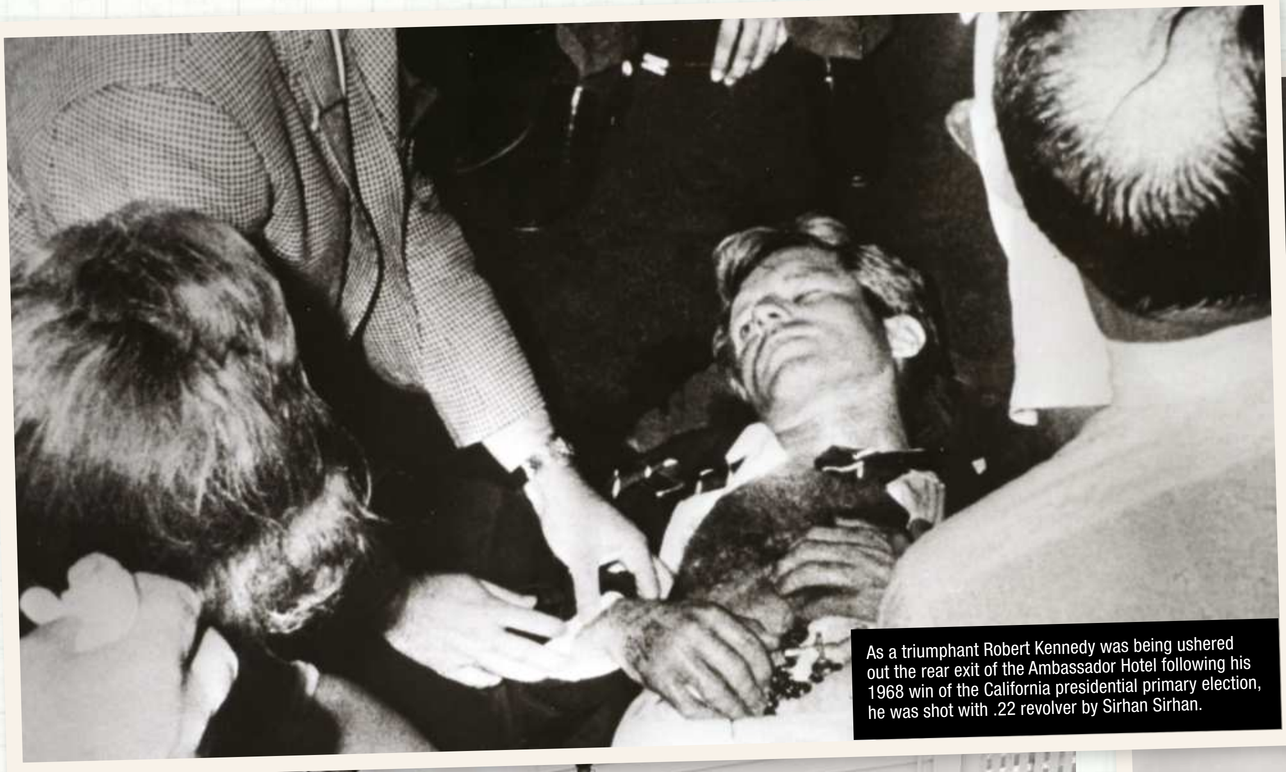


ABOVE TOP US ambassador Joseph Kennedy was the first Kennedy to become a successful international politician. He represented President Roosevelt to important UK officials.

ABOVE LEFT Eunice Kennedy Shriver was the founder of the Special Olympics, and a passionate advocate who was fundamental to the change in the treatment of handicapped individuals.

ABOVE RIGHT Caroline Kennedy and John Jr Kennedy were the surviving children of the former president John Kennedy and Jackie, but John Jr died in 2009.

> "THE PAIR CREATED THE KENNEDY UNIT MANY PEOPLE ASSOCIATE WITH THE INFAMOUS FAMILY NAME TODAY"



As a triumphant Robert Kennedy was being ushered out the rear exit of the Ambassador Hotel following his 1968 win of the California presidential primary election, he was shot with .22 revolver by Sirhan Sirhan.

John Kennedy's assassination while riding in a presidential motorcade in Dealey Plaza was perhaps one of the most shocking events witnessed by America and experienced by the Kennedy family.

HUMAN REMAINS

The son of Robert F Kennedy, David Kennedy's untimely death at the age of 28 was a tragic accident as a result of heavy drug use.

In perhaps what was one of the most prominent events in American history, the 43 year old had won the country's hearts and the right to sit at the head of the government. Following what had been decades of bad luck, it seemed as though their lives were at a turning point. John was the youngest-ever elected president in the country's history, as well as the first and to date only Roman Catholic to occupy office. His leadership style made him one of the greatest presidents the country has ever seen as he championed the country in a race to become key players in scientific, political and humanitarian issues. He had married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier in 1953, and with two children in tow the pair were the epitome of a younger and fresher face to the White House, despite rumors that John was a serial philanderer.

John's first great triumph as president of the United States was the creation of the Peace Corps, a volunteer program for young American volunteers, whose role it was to travel to countries abroad in an effort to promote world peace and friendship on behalf of America. John also pushed for as much as $9 billion from Congress to fund the space program. While Neil Armstrong did not land on the moon until 1969, it was under John's reign that such a prospect became a possibility. When America was on the brink of a nuclear war in 1962, a peaceful resolution was reached between the US and Cuban leaders because of John, and in the face of a major crisis, he emerged a global hero.

John wasn't the only Kennedy trying to improve the world in which they lived. In 1961, his younger sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, championed the creation of the President's Panel on Mental Retardation. Chaired by a panel of 26 members, the board were in charge of overseeing six task forces that had been instructed with conducting an 'intensive search for solutions' to the problems experienced by the mentally challenged. The President's Panel played a significant role in the way that the mentally handicapped were cared for, creating a shift from institutionalization to communal integration that rippled throughout the world. Also a longtime advocate for children's health and disability issues, thanks to the struggles she had watched her sister, Rosemary, endure, Eunice was a key founder of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development within the National Institutes for Health in 1962. She also created 'Camp Shriver', a summer camp for children with mental disabilities. Funded by the PJK Jr Foundation, it opened its doors to dozens of young people aged from six to 16 from local institutions and agencies.

But arguably the biggest tragedy to occur in the Kennedy legacy came on 22 November 1963, when after only 1,036 days in office, 'JFK' was assassinated. In broad daylight he was gunned down as he rode through the packed streets of Dallas, Texas, in an open-top car next to his beautiful wife.

He was shot twice – once in the back and once in the head. The First Lady had to endure the sickening tragedy of having her husband's brain blown across her lap when lone-wolf sniper Lee Harvey Oswald killed the president in an assassination that still creates debates more than half a century on. The public were aghast with horror; death had come for another Kennedy, and it was still hungry for more.

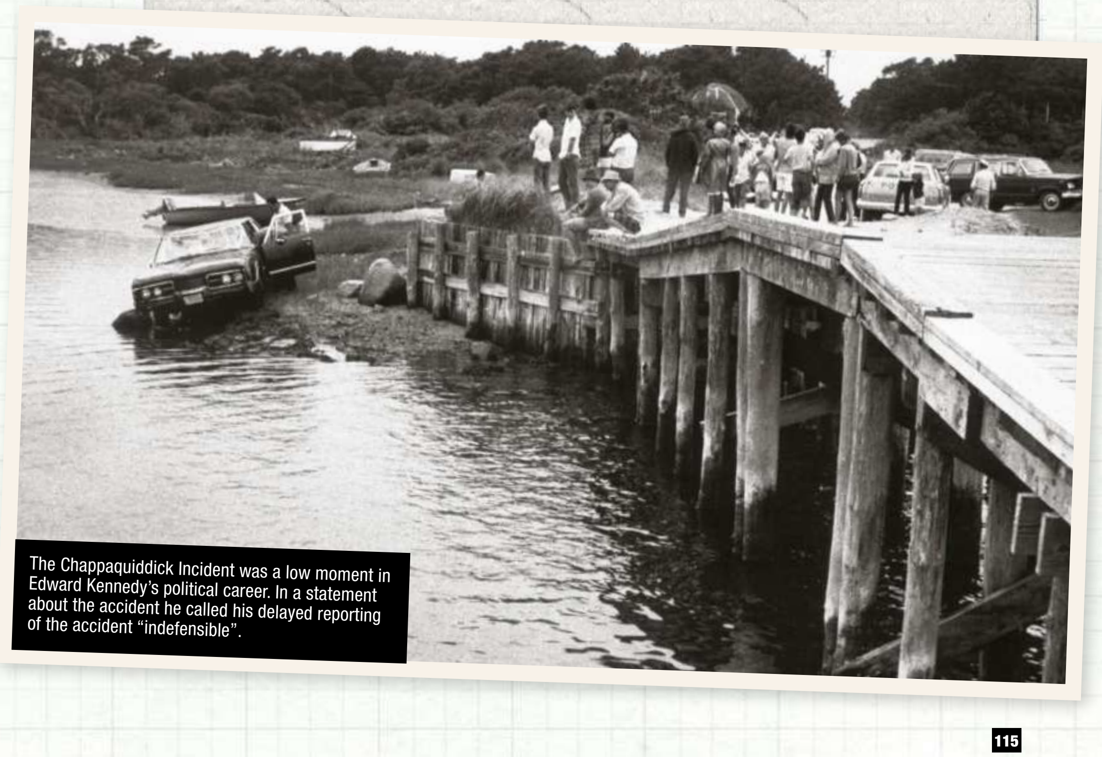
> "DEATH HAD COME FOR ANOTHER KENNEDY, AND IT WAS STILL HUNGRY FOR MORE"

1964 was a bittersweet year for the Kennedys with the Civil Rights Act passed by John's successor, Lyndon Johnson. As the default leader of the US, he asked Congressmen to vote for it as a tribute to their late leader, who originally proposed the bill and dedicated much of his final few months alive working to make it a reality. It was a significant act passed too late for John to relish the triumph. That summer, the youngest Kennedy child and Massachusetts' Democratic Party Senator Edward 'Ted' Moore, cheated death when his plane crashed in an apple orchard in Massachusetts. While

THE MURDER OF MARTHA MOXLEY

A Kennedy was found guilty of the murder of a 15-year-old Connecticut schoolgirl.

In October 1975, Martha Moxley was found dead in her Connecticut home in Belle Haven where both Thomas and Michael Skakel, the nephews of Robert F Kennedy's widow, Ethel Skakel, lived with their family. The night Martha was last seen, 30 October, friends had spotted her kissing Thomas. She was last seen with him in the Skakel backyard. The following day, the young girl's body was found beneath a tree in her backyard. Next to her body lay the shattered pieces of a broken golf club, which the autopsy showed had been used to bludgeon and stab her to death. The club was traced back to the Skakel home. However, no one was charged, and for decades the case languished. Over the years, both brothers repeatedly changed their stories, and a former student from the brothers' school later testified that Michael had bragged: "I'm going to get away with murder. I'm a Kennedy." Police became convinced Michael was the killer, and in January 2000, following an 18-month investigation, a warrant for Michael's arrest was issued, and he surrendered to police. On 7 June 2002, Michael was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 20 years behind bars. After multiple appeals, in October 2013, Michael was granted a new trial by a Connecticut judge, who ruled that his attorney had failed to adequately represent him in 2002. Michael was released on bond for $1.2 million. But in December 2016, the Connecticut Supreme Court reinstated his murder conviction. On May 18, 2018, prosecutors announced that the conviction will be dismissed.



The Chappaquiddick Incident was a low moment in Edward Kennedy's political career. In a statement about the accident he called his delayed reporting of the accident "indefensible".

Edward's life was spared, his pilot and female aide were killed. But Edward paid heavily for the incident, spending six months in hospital recovering from chronic back problems, which plagues him for most of his life. Following in his older brother's footsteps in almost every way, in 1968 State Senator Robert Kennedy was also assassinated, this time by 24-year-old Sirhan Sirhan, a Palestinian/Jordanian immigrant. The assassination was an event broadcast to the world on television screens just moments after Robert had triumphed the California presidential primary election in Los Angeles. His 12-year-old son, David, with whom he shared a uniquely close bond, watched on in horror from their family home as the news was broadcast that his father had been shot. Robert died the following day from the injuries that he had sustained. The news of his father's death hit David hard, and he began to dabble in drugs to ease his pain.

Elsewhere in the world, the Kennedy siblings were making history and headlines. Eunice's work helping to nationalize what was called the Special Olympics had paid off. After a press conference in March, when Eunice and the Chicago Park District announced plans for their joint venture – the first Olympic games for children with intellectual disabilities – the specially coordinated day for disabled athletes had arrived. It was held that summer in Soldier Field in Chicago.

In the summer of 1969, Edward's life was once again plagued by tragedy when a car crash that became known as the Chappaquiddick incident killed his 28-year-old passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne, when he accidentally drove his car off the one-lane bridge and into a tidal channel. Freeing himself from the sinking vehicle, he left the scene and did not report the accident to the police for ten hours. Meanwhile, Mary Jo died inside the car that was submerged under the water. Edward pleaded guilty to a charge of leaving the scene of a crash causing personal injury. He later received a two-month suspended jail sentence.

The Seventies were a difficult time for Edward's nephew, David, who was also

“ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD THE KENNEDY SIBLINGS WERE MAKING HISTORY AND HEADLINES”

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As well as a Kennedy woman, Rose was also given the title ‘papal countess’.

Rose Kennedy was considered a model mother with a distinctive method of keeping tabs on her nine children through an index filing system. A devoted mother, she was also a loving wife. In the late Thirties, her husband was named US ambassador to Britain, and in March 1939 while living overseas, the Kennedy family was invited to attend the coronation of Pius XII. There, they enjoyed a private audience with the new Pope. Throughout her life, religion, family and politics were the areas she dedicated most of her time to. Her devotion to the Church meant that in 1951, she had the rare title of papal countess conferred on her by the Vatican. The prestigious title was bequeathed to her in recognition of her “exemplary motherhood and many charitable works.” She was only the sixth woman from the United States to have the title bestowed upon her by the Roman Catholic Church, and the only woman to be honored by Pope Puis XII in his 19 years as the head of the Roman Catholic Church. It was a title that pleased her greatly, and she often made use of it in her religious circles, mentioning it at church ceremonies and special events when she traveled to predominantly Catholic countries in Europe.

JFK saved the day when he reached a compromise with Cuban leader Nikita Khrushchev in October 1962 that avoided a heavily anticipated nuclear war.

As a result of a lack of understanding his daughter's learning difficulties, Joseph Kennedy had his eldest daughter, Rosemary, lobotomized in the hope it would cure her, but it left her permanently disabled.

Just moments after Robert had triumphed the California presidential primary election in Los Angeles, he was killed.

LOS ANGELES
Ambassador Hotel
Kenn

John F Kennedy Jr and his sister, Caroline Kennedy, who is former United States ambassador to Japan.

involved in a car accident in 1973 that left his then girlfriend paralysed. His brother, Joseph Kennedy II, was charged with reckless driving. As a result of the accident, David sustained an injury to his back that left him dependant on painkillers, a dependency that soon turned into an addiction. David also dropped out of Harvard, and in two years suffered two overdoses and had various brushes with the law, including driving under the influence. But in 1984, he completed a month-long stay in rehab, and the future looked brighter for once. However, after checking in to room 107 of the Brazilian Court Hotel on 19 April, the renowned party boy spent the next few days dancing and taking drugs. Clearly still reeling from his father's death, David's destructive path eventually led to his death. On 25 April, just six days after his arrival at the hotel, staff found him dead on the floor of his suite from an overdose of cocaine, Demerol and Mellaril.

Tragedy was still to come for his mother, Ethel, who lost a second son in 1997. On New Year's Eve 1997, while on the Aspen Mountain in Colorado, Michael and other members of the family were playing football while on skis. Information regarding whether the party were warned to cease the activity is unclear, but suddenly in the middle of the afternoon, Michael hit a tree. Unprotected by a helmet or any safety gear, he was taken to hospital and pronounced dead less than two hours later. In 1999, John and Jackie's only son, John Kennedy Jr, his wife and sister in law died in a plane crash over the Atlantic Ocean.

While the Kennedy dynasty continues to live on in America in the 21st century (with Caroline Kennedy former United States ambassador to Japan as the only surviving child of John and Jacqueline), the name is forever plagued by the highs and lows of the Kennedy legacy.

FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

The Kennedys were a complicated family, and like every family across the world, had its quirks.

Rose had strict rules

Mother to nine Kennedy children, Rose had certain rules to keep them in line. They were not allowed to cry, lateness was not tolerated, and the children were assigned topics to discuss at dinner that they had to research and report back on.

Jackie had already been engaged

Society pages in an American newspaper showed that Jackie was once engaged to John Husted in January 1952. But she called the engagement off in March, and a few months later met John Kennedy at a dinner hosted by mutual friends.

John donated his salary

When he became president, John Kennedy's family fortune was valued at approximately $1 billion. Day-to-day John lived off a $10 million trust fund, and according to biographer Richard Reeves, Kennedy refused his presidential salary, deciding instead to donate the money to charity.

Michael was accused of statutory rape

In 1997, it was revealed that Michael Kennedy had been having a three-year-long affair with his children's 16-year-old babysitter, Marisa Verrochi. He was accused of having sex with a minor. He took a polygraph test three times to prove otherwise.

Eunice was on a coin

In 1995, Eunice was the first living woman to be honored with a commemorative US coin. To commemorate her dedication to the Special Olympics, 800,000 coins were made featuring her face. Part of the proceeds collected from the coin went to benefiting the games founded.

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The Curse of the Kennedys

America's most powerful political dynasty was blessed with charisma, talent and ambition, but blighted by intrigue, conspiracy and tragedy.

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped." Robert 'Bobby' Kennedy made this, his 'Ripples of Hope' speech, at the University of Cape Town in 1966. Two years later he would be shot dead in a Los Angeles hotel. He was the second Kennedy family member to be gunned down in the Sixties alone.

This four-generation dynasty of Democratic politicians held elected office at the national level from 1947 to 2011 and, after a two-year break, from 2013 to the present. As well as high-profile assassinations, personal tragedy has dogged the family throughout: car accidents, drug overdoses.

Political dynasties are almost as old as the American republic. The second president, John Adams, was the father of the sixth president, John Quincy Adams. His son, Charles Francis Adams, was America's ambassador to the UK. In 1868, Charles Francis' son, John Quincy Adams II, even ran for the Democratic Party's nomination as presidential candidate – and won just a single vote.

The Adams dynasty petered out in the early 20th century, just as the Bush dynasty was getting started. Prescott Bush (1895-1972) was a Connecticut senator. His son, George H W Bush, became America's 41st president, and his grandson, George W. Bush, became the 43rd. Another grandson, Jeb, the erstwhile governor of Florida, ran for the GOP nomination in 2016.

The Kennedys, like the Adams and Bush families, have now sent generations into office, and produced three candidates for their party's presidential nomination. But the Kennedys are quite different. The Adams and Bush families descend from English Protestant immigrants, and their ancestors witnessed the American Revolution. The Kennedys descend from Irish Catholics who immigrated in the mid-19th century. They are latecomers to the U.S.A, and they came as outsiders.

The Irish immigrants who fled across the Atlantic during the years of famine were often received with suspicion, and even outright loathing. John F Kennedy's presidential campaign of 1960 was the first Catholic candidacy in American history, and a campaign that included Kennedy's promise that his loyalty to Rome would not override his loyalty to the land of his birth.

The rise of the Kennedys mirrors most American stories of rags to riches, and the rich, as F Scott Fitzgerald commented, are different. No other political family has the glamour of the Kennedys. No other political family grips the American imagination like the Kennedys do. The fascination derives from a mixture of style and tragedy. The Kennedys stand for the heroism of World War II, the optimism of the 1950s, the brave new world of the 1960s, and its human cost, too. In a society with a short history and an insatiable appetite for entertainment, the Kennedys stand at the core of America's cultural narrative.

They also stand for America's tragedy – the familiar story of rags to riches has always had its darker side.

Joseph P. 'Joe' Kennedy, Jr
Military Accident

Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy
Plane Crash

Robert F. 'Bobby' Kennedy
Assassination

President John F. 'Jack' Kennedy
Assassination

Fitzgerald also wrote that there are "no second acts in American lives." Like characters in a three-act play, the protagonists race forward from the first to final act. Many of the Kennedy family have fallen to this fate. Three of founding patriarch Joseph P Kennedy Sr's four sons died violently. Of Joseph 'Joe' Kennedy's 31 grandchildren, four died prematurely, and in often bleak circumstance.

Joe Kennedy was the grandson of Patrick Kennedy, a farmer's son from County Wexford, who emigrated to Boston in 1849 with his wife Mary. Their son, Patrick Joseph 'PJ' Kennedy, became a businessman with political connections. His son, Joseph 'Joe' Kennedy Sr (1888-1969) became wealthy through investing in steel, movies, real estate and, after the end of Prohibition, in the importation of Scotch whisky. Prominent in the Massachusetts Democratic Party, Kennedy was appointed by President Franklin D Roosevelt to head the Securities and Exchange Committee and then, from 1938-40, as ambassador to London. From this post, Kennedy sent anti-British reports back to Washington and attempted to organize a rapprochement with Hitler.

Joe Kennedy was intensely ambitious. Sharing his father's dream of creating a dynasty, he married Rose Fitzgerald, the daughter of his father's rival, John 'Honey Fitz' Fitzgerald, the mayor of Boston. Joe raised their children to be competitive and boundlessly ambitious—they played famously aggressive games of 'touch football', and spoke in the mannered 'Brahmin' accents of Boston's old upper class. Joe was determined that his first son, Joseph Jr, would be the first Catholic president of Irish extraction—an ambition shared by his father-in-law 'Honey' Fitz, who intended Joe Jr to become "the future President of the nation."

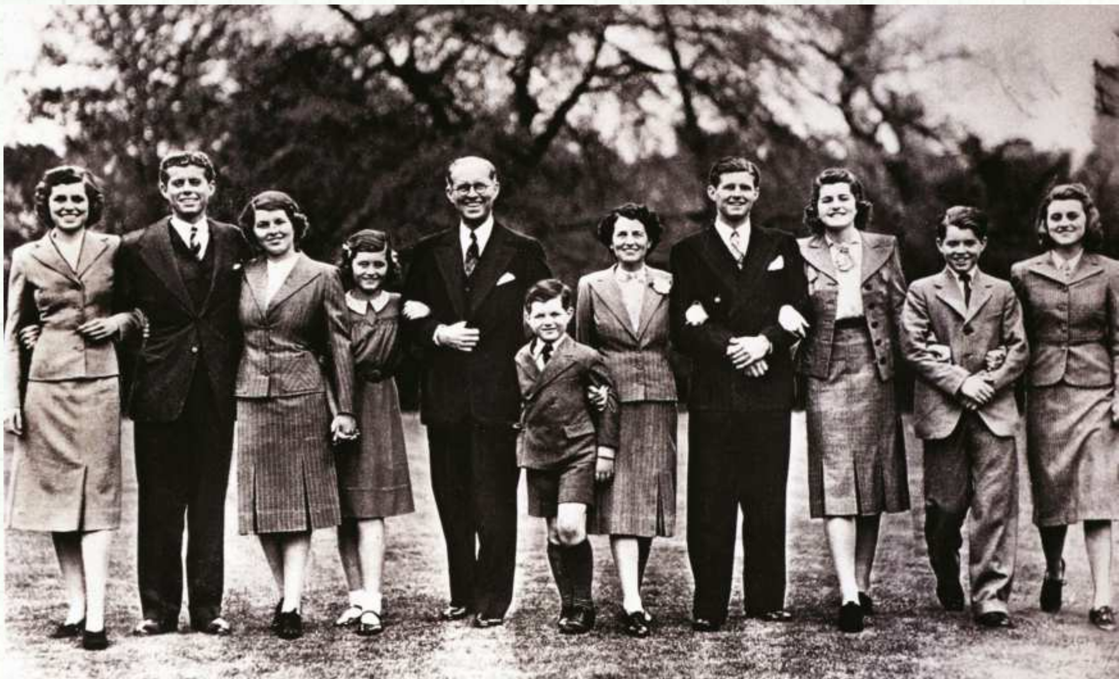
In London, Joe's second daughter, Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy, fell in love with William Cavendish, the eldest son of the Duke of Devonshire, and the two married in May 1944. If ambition had brought the Kennedys to London, love brought the first of many tragedies. The eldest Kennedy son, Joseph Patrick 'Joe' Jr, had completed a tour as a Navy pilot, but volunteered for Operation Aphrodite, as a test pilot for unmanned, remote control aircraft. In August 1944, Joe was killed when a test plane blew up in mid-air.

Three months later, William Cavendish was killed by a German sniper's bullet while fighting at Heppen, Belgium. Within a mere few weeks, Kick had lost her favorite brother and her husband. She found consolation with Peter Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, 8th Earl Fitzwilliam, a wealthy Commando officer estranged from his wife. In May 1948, Kick and Earl Fitzwilliam were killed in a plane crash while en route to a holiday in the south of France.

The family kept the details of her death out of the newspapers. They also hushed up the fate of Kick's sister, Rosemary. Born with learning disabilities, Rosemary was kept out of the public eye, and

> "JOE RAISED THEIR CHILDREN… TO BE BOUNDLESSLY AMBITIOUS"

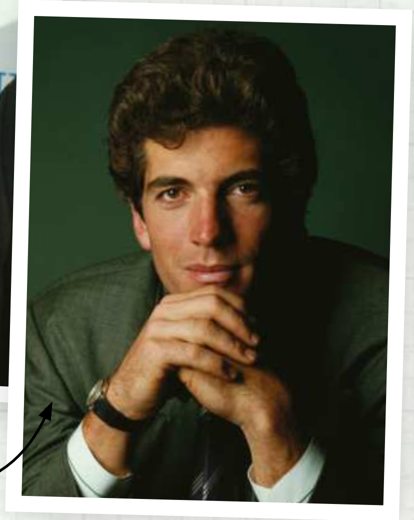
RIGHT A family shot taken in 1939 of Joe and Rose Kennedy with their nine children.



David A. Kennedy
Drug overdose

Michael L. Kennedy
Skiing accident

Mary Richardson Kennedy
Suicide



John F. Kennedy, Jr.
Plane crash

THE DARK SECRET OF ROSEMARY KENNEDY

How JFK's sister was lobotomized and hidden from the public.

Rosemary Kennedy (1918-2005) was the eldest daughter of Rose and Joe Kennedy. Diagnosed with learning difficulties in childhood, Rose was placed in a convent and kept separate from other girls. Her mental age was assessed as comparable to that of a child between eight and 12 years old. This did not stop her from leading an active social life at times, and she was presented to King George VI when her father was American ambassador to the Court of St James.

Rosemary, experiencing puberty and frustrated with her disabilities, became increasingly aggressive and rebellious towards her parents and it wasn't long before she was sneaking out of the convent. Joe Kennedy, unwilling to risk damage to his political ambitions for the family, decided to have his daughter lobotomized. The operation failed, leaving her permanently incontinent, and with the mental capacity of a two year old. Joe and Rose hid her in an institution in Jefferson, Wisconsin, and told the press that she was a recluse. Rose did not visit for 20 years, and Joe never visited at all. Rosemary lived another 63 years. "She was a sweet and lovely human being," her brother Ted Kennedy recalled. The tragedy may have inspired her sister Eunice to found the Special Olympics.

ABOVE Rosemary Kennedy and her father in London, 1938. After the lobotomy he would never visit her in care.

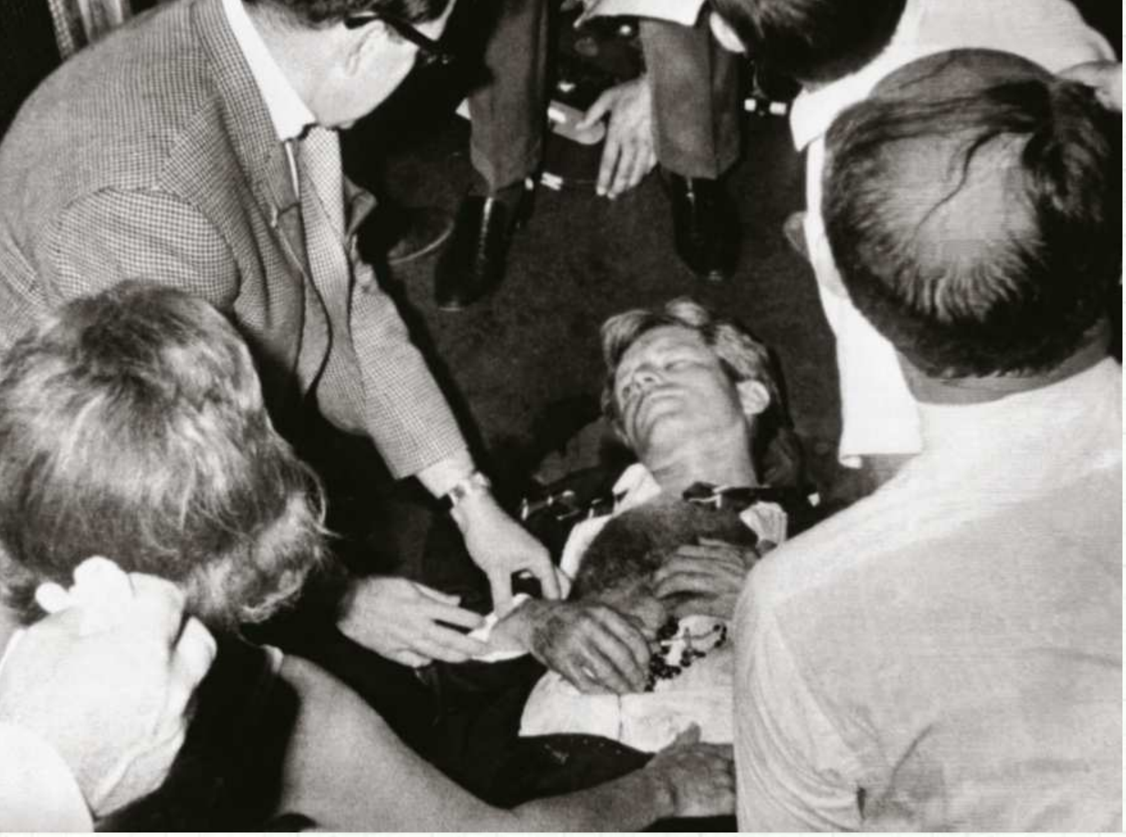
isolated from society because Joe did not want to damage her siblings' prospects of political and social advancement. As a teenager, she was diagnosed with the mental capacity of a child between eight and 12 years of age, and sent to a convent. Her moods became increasingly unstable – perhaps because she was an adolescent, perhaps because she was frustrated by her mental limitations. In response, in 1941 Joe had his 23-year-old daughter lobotomized. The operation went wrong, and reduced her to a helpless condition. She spent the rest of her life in a remote Catholic institution in Wisconsin, effectively written out of the Kennedy story.

After Joe Jr's death, the family's ambitions devolved onto his younger brother, John Fitzgerald 'Jack' Kennedy. After serving in the US Navy in the Pacific, Jack Kennedy entered Congress in 1947, then won a Senate seat in 1953. In the same year, he married Jackie Bouvier, a stockbroker's daughter from New York. In 1960, Kennedy became the youngest elected president in American history; only Theodore Roosevelt, who had succeeded to the office after the assassination of William McKinley, was younger on entering the White House. JFK's younger brother Robert 'Bobby' Kennedy entered the White House with him. Amid accusations of nepotism, Jack appointed Bobby as attorney general.

Kennedy was not the first American president to be assassinated, but he was the first whose death was captured in color film, and broadcast around the world. He had embodied youthful optimism as well as traditional patriotism.

The JFK who challenged the Soviets in launching the Space Race and declaimed 'Ich bin ein Berliner' by the Berlin Wall was also the JFK who consorted with film stars and courted the news media. The legend of the Kennedy White House as an enchanted and glamorous Camelot, a modern court of King Arthur, is colored by Kennedy's assassination and the images of Jackie and their young children, Caroline and John Jr, at his grave. Privately, the Kennedys suffered the loss of two children in early infancy. Their marriage also suffered from Jack Kennedy's constant philandering, the most famous example of which was Marilyn Monroe.

After JFK's assassination, Bobby Kennedy entered the Senate for New York State. By 1968, he was the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination. In June 1968, shortly after winning the California primary, Bobby Kennedy addressed his supporters at a hotel in Los Angeles. A Palestinian named Sirhan



ABOVE Bobby Kennedy, mortally wounded and clutching rosary beads, after being shot.

Sirhan shot him three times at point blank range because, Sirhan said, the Kennedys supported Israel. His widow, Ethel Skakel Kennedy, was left to raise 11 children.

The last and youngest of the Kennedy brothers stepped into the breach, but faltered almost at once. In fact, Edward 'Ted' Kennedy was lucky to be alive at all. In 1964, a light aircraft in which he was traveling crashed in bad weather in western Massachusetts. The pilot and one of Ted Kennedy's aides were killed. Kennedy spent months in recovery, with injuries to his spine, ribs and lungs.

Nor did Ted Kennedy show signs of the intellect and integrity with which Jack and Bobby had distinguished themselves. Jack had won medals as the captain of a Navy torpedo boat. Bobby had taken on the Mafia and was, his father Joe Sr said, as "hard as nails". Ted was drafted into the Army, but never saw combat or rose above the rank of private. Academically indifferent, he played football at Harvard and was caught cheating in an effort to raise his grades. Still, Kennedy connections secured him a Senate seat in 1962.

"TED WAS DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY"

The assassinations of Jack and Bobby Kennedy left Ted the surrogate uncle to their children, and the last repository of his father's expectations. He was already tipped for the 1972 Democratic nomination. But in July 1969, Ted's political prospects ended overnight at Chappaquiddick, a small island off Martha's Vineyard. After a party for the 'Boiler Room Girls', a group of young women who had worked on Bobby Kennedy's 1968 campaign, Ted Kennedy left with Mary Jo Kopechne. Shortly afterwards, Kennedy's car tipped off an unlit bridge and into a tidal channel. Kopechne died.

In his statement to the police, Kennedy later insisted that he had been taking Kopechne to the nearby ferry station at Edgartown. But Kopechne left her keys and purse at the party, as well as her underwear, and the road to the bridge did not lead to Edgartown. Kennedy stated that he had no recollection of how he had escaped from the car, which had flipped upside

ABOVE JFK's family make their departure after his funeral.

ABOVE TOP Ted Kennedy's handling of his car accident ended his family's political streak.

ABOVE Bobby, Ted and Jack – out of the three here, only Ted lived to see his old age.

TIMELINE Seven decades of the Kennedy Curse

1941

Rosemary Kennedy, the eldest daughter of Joe and Rose Kennedy, is lobotomized because her father fears her disability and mood swings may damage the family's prospects.

1944

Naval pilot Joseph Kennedy Jr, Joe and Rose Kennedy's eldest son, is killed in an accident during the secret testing of remote control aircraft that are packed with explosives.

1948

Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy, daughter of Joe and Rose Kennedy, and widow of the Marquess of Hartington, dies with her married boyfriend, the 8th Earl Fitzwilliam, in a plane crash in France.

1963

John and Jackie Kennedy's son, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, dies two days after being born prematurely.

1963

President John F Kennedy is assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas. Then and now, a majority of Americans believe that Kennedy was killed in a conspiracy.

1964

A light plane carrying JFK's youngest brother, Edward 'Ted' Kennedy, crashes in western Massachusetts. The pilot and one of Kennedy's aides are killed; he survives with severe back injuries.

1968

Minutes after winning the crucial California primary for the Democratic presidential nomination, Robert Kennedy is assassinated by Palestinian Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for supporting Israel.

down in the shallow water, and that he had dived into the water several times, to try to rescue Kopechne.

But Ted Kennedy did not call the police. Instead, he walked back to the party. On the way, he passed four houses whose telephones he could have used. He did not. At the party, he told two male friends what had happened, and asked them not to tell the Boiler Room Girls. He took his friends to the crash site, where they repeatedly dived into the water. They insisted that he call the police, and he agreed that he would. But instead, he swam across the sound to his hotel, and went to bed.

ABOVE Ted Kennedy's failure to alert the authorities after he ran off the bridge almost certainly contributed to Kopechne's death.

At 8am the next morning, Kennedy's friends confronted him at his hotel and insisted again that he call the authorities. He did not. Instead he called friends and asked for advice. Meanwhile, two fishermen alerted the police. A frogman found Mary Jo Kopechne's body sitting upright, and took ten minutes to free her. "She died of suffocation in her own air void," said John Farrar of the Edgartown Fire Department. "It took her at least three or four hours to die. I could have got her out of that car twenty-five minutes after I got the call."

An inquest concluded that Kennedy had turned off the road to the ferry deliberately, and that the speed at which he had driven was "negligent and possibly reckless." But the State of Massachusetts did not prosecute a favored son for manslaughter. At trial, Kennedy pleaded guilty of leaving the scene of an accident. The unanswered questions about Chappaquiddick cost him his presidential ambitions, and his wife a miscarriage. When Kennedy finally launched a presidential campaign in 1980, Jimmy Carter deflated his chances with allusions to Chappaquiddick, saying that he, unlike Kennedy, had never "panicked in a crisis."

The Kennedy name never recovered from Ted Kennedy's inexplicable behavior at Chappaquiddick. The curse, however, seemed to endure even as the family's political fortunes declined. In 1973, Joseph P Kennedy II, who was Bobby Kennedy's son and Ted Kennedy's nephew, left his brother David's girlfriend paralyzed after a car accident. David,

JFK'S SECRET CONDITIONS

The medical history that JFK hid from the American public.

When JFK ran for office as a youthful and vigorous man of action, he misrepresented himself to the American public. In 2002, historian Robert Dallek obtained Kennedy's medical files for the years 1955-63. Kennedy suffered from prostate problems, adrenal deficiency, abscesses, digestive problems, and chronic back pain. He wore a spinal corset, required the sedative Tuinal in order to sleep, and was treated with a pharmacopoeia of prescription drugs, including cortisone-type steroids for his adrenal problems, cocaine derivatives as painkillers, phenobarbital and testosterone for his stomach ailments and weight loss, and penicillin for sexually transmitted infections of the urinary tract.

At one point during his presidency, Kennedy was receiving prescriptions from three doctors, and two of them did not know about the third—Max 'Dr Feelgood' Jacobson, most of whose treatments involved large doses of amphetamine. Perhaps fortunately, the other two doctors blocked Jacobson's treatments before Kennedy had to handle the Cuban Missile Crisis.

After Kennedy's assassination, it emerged that in 1947, when he was 30 and a first-term congressman, he had been diagnosed with the endocrine disorder Addison's disease. Kennedy also had a second endocrine disease, hypothyroidism. The presence of these indicates that he may have had a genetic disorder called Schmidt's Syndrome.

ABOVE JFK's persona of healthy vigor hid a long list of serious health issues

1969	1973	1984	1991	1997	1999	2002	2012
Ted Kennedy crashes a car into a tidal channel between Chappaquiddick Island and Martha's Vineyard, killing 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopechne. He left the scene without telling the authorities.	Joseph P Kennedy II, the eldest son of Robert Kennedy, crashes his car, leaving his passenger, Pam Kelley, paralyzed.	David Kennedy, fourth son of Robert Kennedy, overdoses on cocaine and prescription sedatives in a Florida hotel room at the age of just 28.	William Kennedy Smith, son of JFK's sister Jean, is tried for raping a woman on a Florida beach. Three other women claim that Smith raped them, but their testimony is rejected. Smith is acquitted.	Thirty-nine year-old Michael Lemoyne Kennedy, sixth son of Robert Kennedy, hits a tree and is killed while playing American football on skis, and without a helmet.	Socialite John F Kennedy, Jr, his wife and his sister-in-law are killed when 'John-John' crashes his plane off the coast of Martha's Vineyard.	Michael Skakel, nephew of Robert F Kennedy's widow Ethel Kennedy, is convicted of the 1975 murder of his teenage neighbor, Martha Moxley.	Mary Richardson Kennedy, the estranged wife of Robert F Kennedy, Jr, hangs herself in her barn after years of struggle against depression and alcoholism.

who had learnt of his father's assassination from a newscaster in the confused moments after his shooting, was injured in the accident and became addicted to opiate painkillers, which soon turned to heroin. In 1984, David Kennedy celebrated the completion of a month-long detox programme by travelling to Palm Beach, Florida for Easter, where several family members were on holiday. A few days later, however, he was found dead in his hotel room after a drugs binge.

Thirteen years later, in 1997, another of Bobby Kennedy's sons died in a bizarre skiing accident.

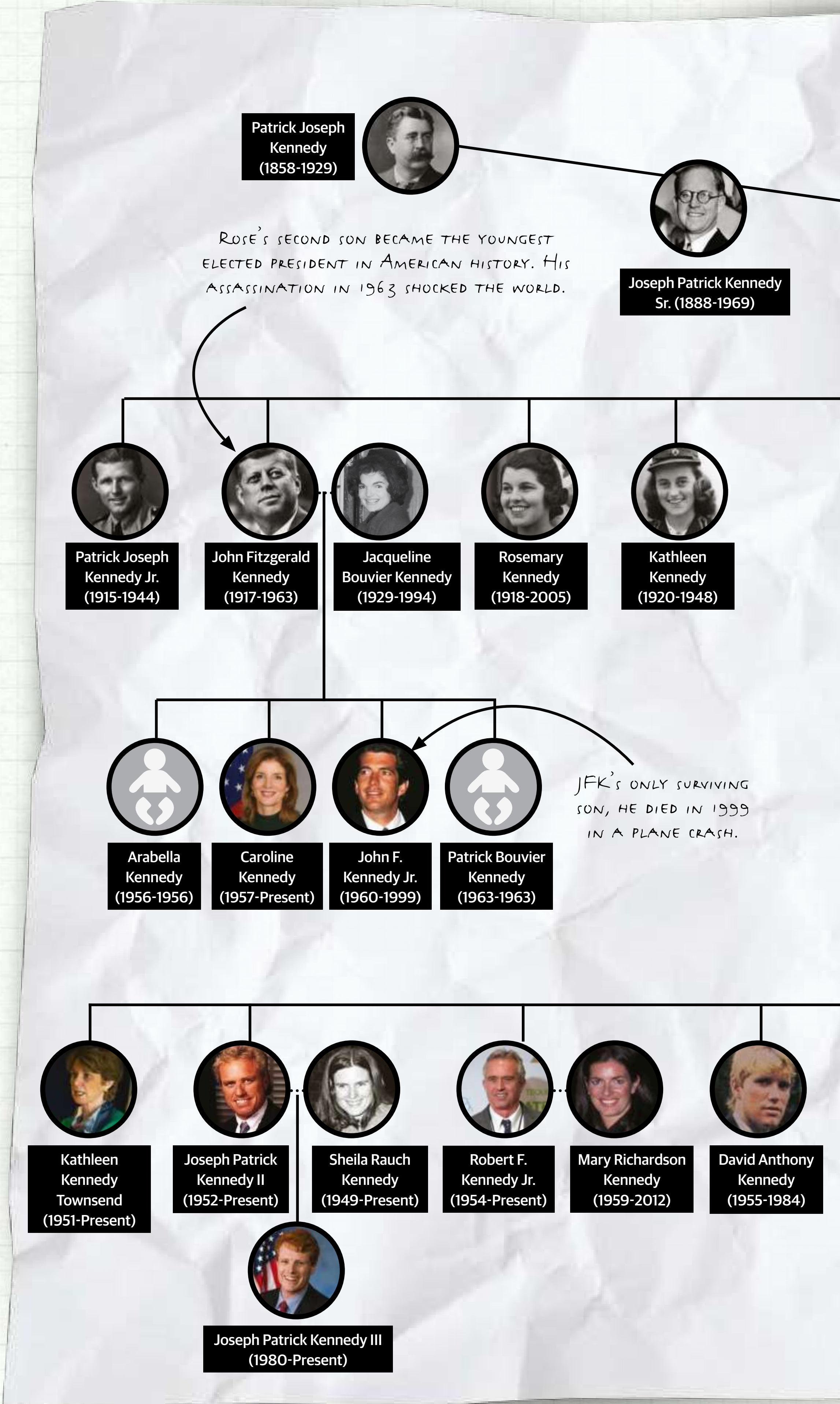
> "THE CURSE IS TO BE BORN A KENNEDY"

Michael Kennedy was holidaying in a ski resort at Aspen, Colorado, and playing American football on skis. He was not wearing a helmet, and was killed when he skated into a tree. Two years after that, in 1999, JFK's only surviving son, John F Kennedy Jr, died when his private plane went into the Atlantic Ocean off Martha's Vineyard, en route to his cousin Rory Kennedy's wedding. His wife, Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy, and her sister Lauren died with him.

The unfulfilled life of JFK Jr (1960-99) reflects the decline of the Kennedy dynasty from ambitious public service to complacent private wealth. Trained as a lawyer, 'John-John' dabbled in journalism and acting, but excelled as a socialite. A recently qualified pilot, he did not hold a license for night flying, but delayed his take-off until dusk because his sister-in-law was held up at work. He was also flying with one ankle in a cast from a paragliding accident.

The retirement in 2011 of Rhode Island Congressman Patrick J Kennedy, son of Ted Kennedy, after a series of drink- and drug-related problems, ended the Kennedys' unbroken run in office from 1947 – and, apparently, Joe Sr's dream of an American Irish and Catholic dynasty. During the Chappaquiddick inquest, Ted Kennedy wondered aloud if "a curse actually did hang over all the Kennedys." But the real curse of the Kennedys is to be born a Kennedy—to be cursed with the expectation to live large, to be cursed with the obligation to strive for high office, and to be cursed with the impulse to tempt fate with hedonistic and dangerous behavior.

The Kennedys are not finished yet, though. In 2013, a Kennedy returned to Congress with the Democratic Party's delegation from Massachusetts. Joseph P Kennedy III is Joseph P Kennedy II's son, Bobby's grandson, Jack and Ted's grand-nephew, and Joe Sr's great-grandson. A happily married teetotaller, he is tipped as a future Democratic candidate for the governorship of Massachusetts.


Patrick Joseph Kennedy (1858-1929)
Joseph Patrick Kennedy Sr. (1888-1969)
Patrick Joseph Kennedy Jr. (1915-1944)
John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963)
Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy (1929-1994)
Rosemary Kennedy (1918-2005)
Kathleen Kennedy (1920-1948)
Arabella Kennedy (1956-1956)
Caroline Kennedy (1957-Present)
John F. Kennedy Jr. (1960-1999)
Patrick Bouvier Kennedy (1963-1963)
Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (1951-Present)
Joseph Patrick Kennedy II (1952-Present)
Sheila Rauch Kennedy (1949-Present)
Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (1954-Present)
Mary Richardson Kennedy (1959-2012)
David Anthony Kennedy (1955-1984)
Joseph Patrick Kennedy III (1980-Present)

Rose's second son became the youngest elected president in American history. His assassination in 1963 shocked the world.

JFK's only surviving son, he died in 1999 in a plane crash.

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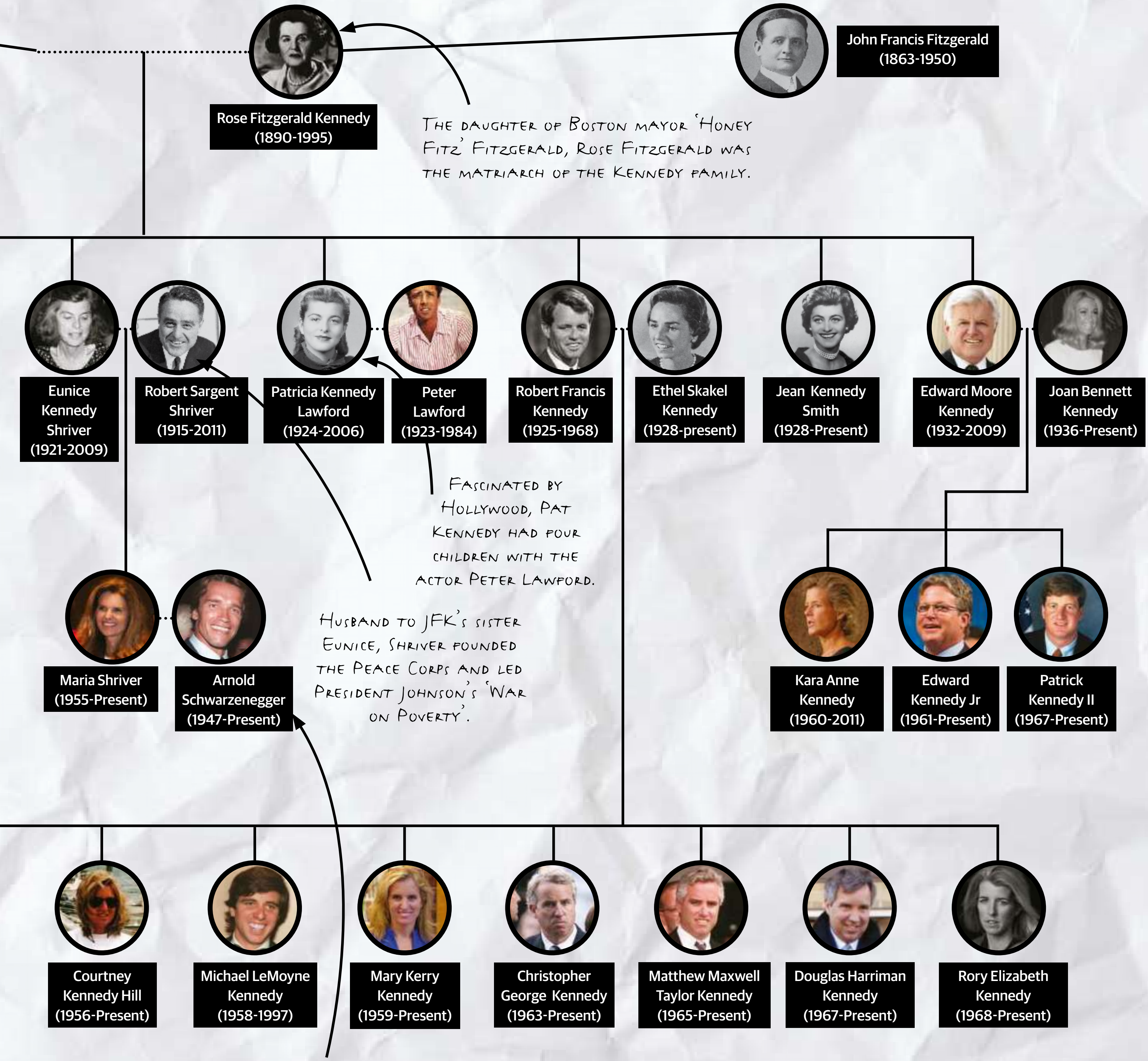
THE KENNEDY FAMILY TREE


Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy (1890-1995)
John Francis Fitzgerald (1863-1950)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver (1921-2009)
Robert Sargent Shriver (1915-2011)
Patricia Kennedy Lawford (1924-2006)
Peter Lawford (1923-1984)
Robert Francis Kennedy (1925-1968)
Ethel Skakel Kennedy (1928-present)
Jean Kennedy Smith (1928-Present)
Edward Moore Kennedy (1932-2009)
Joan Bennett Kennedy (1936-Present)
Maria Shriver (1955-Present)
Arnold Schwarzenegger (1947-Present)
Kara Anne Kennedy (1960-2011)
Edward Kennedy Jr (1961-Present)
Patrick Kennedy II (1967-Present)
Courtney Kennedy Hill (1956-Present)
Michael LeMoyne Kennedy (1958-1997)
Mary Kerry Kennedy (1959-Present)
Christopher George Kennedy (1963-Present)
Matthew Maxwell Taylor Kennedy (1965-Present)
Douglas Harriman Kennedy (1967-Present)
Rory Elizabeth Kennedy (1968-Present)

The daughter of Boston mayor 'Honey Fitz' Fitzgerald, Rose Fitzgerald was the matriarch of the Kennedy family.

Fascinated by Hollywood, Pat Kennedy had four children with the actor Peter Lawford.

Husband to JFK's sister Eunice, Shriver founded the Peace Corps and led President Johnson's 'War on Poverty'.

The bodybuilder, actor and Republican governor of California married Eunice and Sargent Shriver's daughter Maria.

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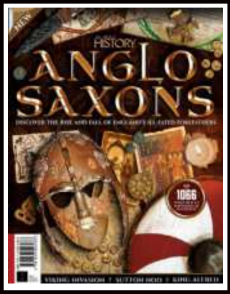
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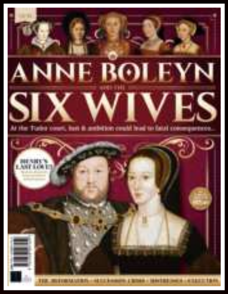
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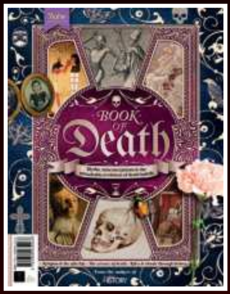
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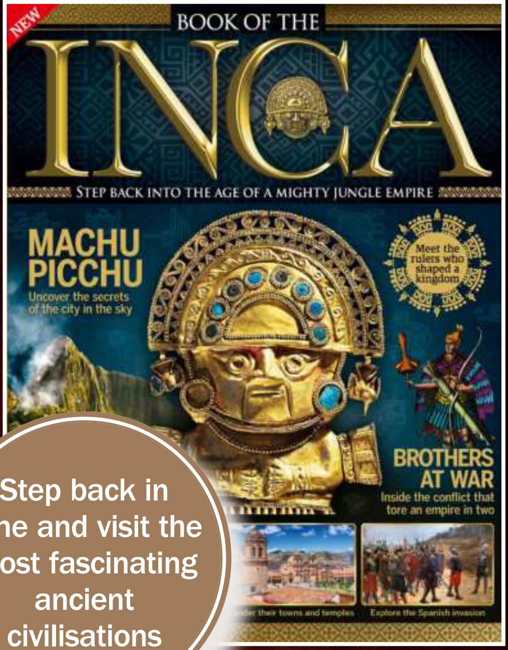
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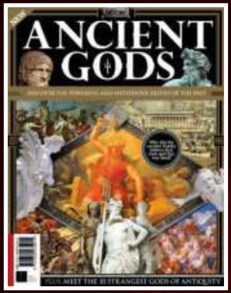
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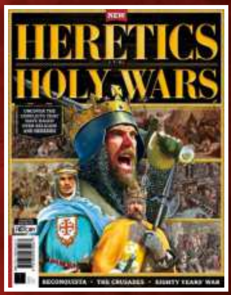
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